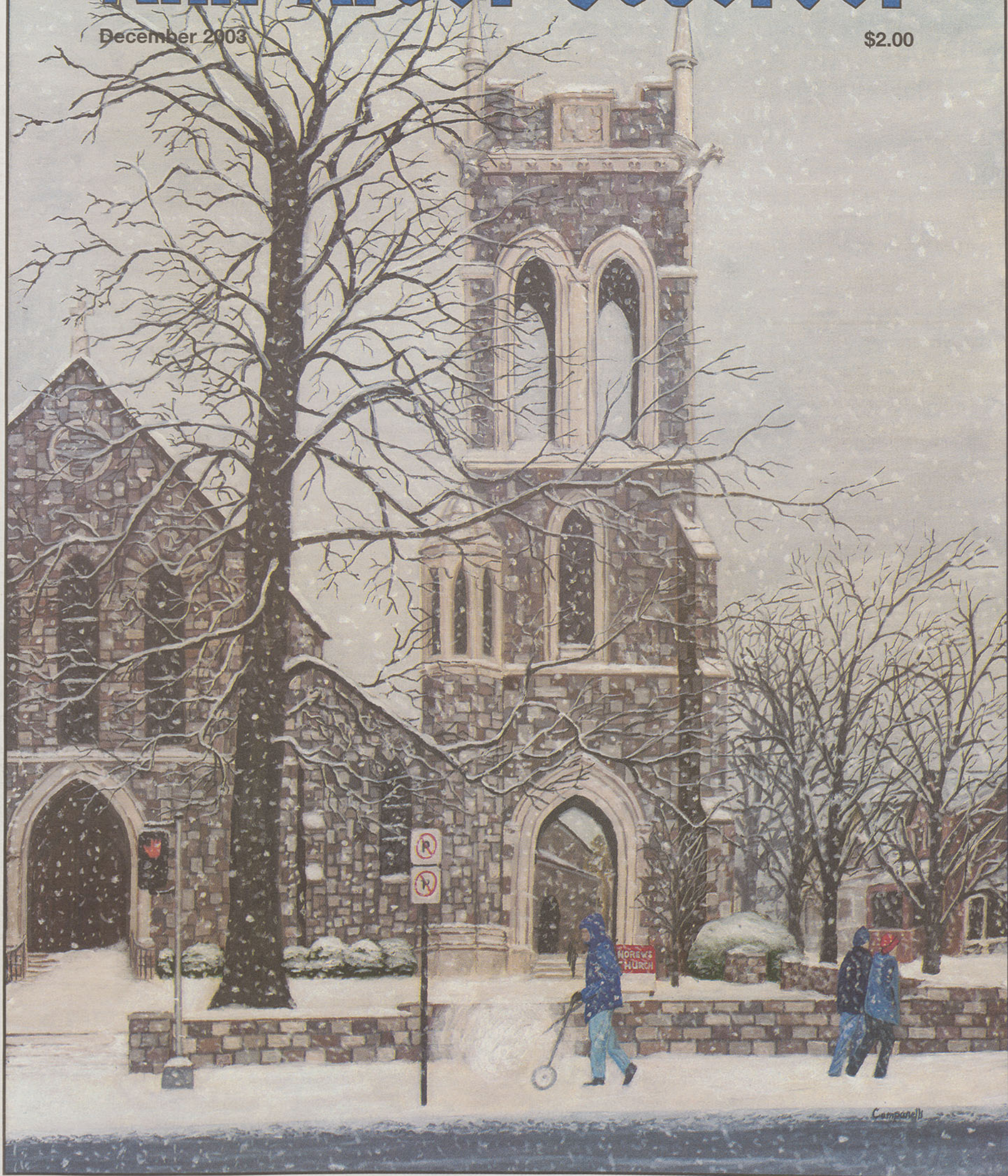


Ann Arbor Observer

December 2003

\$2.00



Pfizer Awards Community Grants

Congratulations to the local nonprofit agencies that received funding support totaling \$557,000 through Pfizer's Community Grants Program during its fall-winter funding cycle. Pfizer is a proud member of this community, and we want to show it by supporting agencies that so richly enhance our quality of life, provide critical health services to people in need, and foster and inspire future scientists. In 2003, Pfizer's Ann Arbor Campus donated \$1.5 million to community organizations, most of them based in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area. Pfizer supports arts and culture, healthcare, and science education programs.

Healthcare

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association: Continuing Education and Program Services

American Red Cross – Washtenaw County: Youth Volunteer Program

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation: 2-1-1 Call Center for Washtenaw County

Center for Independent Living: My Chance to Dance
Health Education and Exercise Program for high school students with disabilities

Center for the Childbearing Year: Doula Care Program
Provide mentoring and support to meet the needs of low-income women and adolescents with at-risk pregnancies

Chelsea Area Transportation System: Medical Access Program

Family Book Club: Prescription to Read

Jewish Family Services of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County: Access to Healthcare Program for Low-Income Older Adults
Comprehensive educational/referral program for older low-income adults designed to provide educational, translation, transportation, and counseling services

Neighborhood Senior Services: Medication Management Services
Provide medication management services for low-income older adults and disabled individuals.

Packard Community Clinic: Counseling Program for Low-Income Adults

Planned Parenthood Mid-Michigan Alliance: Teen Peer Education

Saint Joseph Mercy Health System: Shapedown Weight Management Program

Samaritan Counseling Services: Samaritan Fund
Implementation of a quality, affordable child play therapy program to serve the mental health needs of at-risk children

The City of Ypsilanti: Roots-n-Shoots Garden Project
Empowers local, at-risk young teens with entrepreneurial and leadership skills and experience through gardening, sales and mentoring

NAMI of Washtenaw County: Crisis Relief Team Training

Therapeutic Riding: Adopt-A-Horse

University of Michigan – Community Family Health Center: Health Promotion and Wellness Program
Provide physical exams and health counseling for low-income patients

University of Michigan – Community Health Services: Regional Alliance for Healthy Schools
Implement clinical primary health care school-based services for at-risk students and their families at Stone High School

University of Michigan – Turner Geriatric Clinic: Silver Club Support
Day care program for older adults with memory loss

Washtenaw Health Plan Corporation: Washtenaw Health Plan
Helps low-income Washtenaw County residents obtain prescription drugs, durable medical equipment, and medical supplies

Womens Center of America: Personal Counseling Program

Youth Empowerment Project (YEP): Youth in Action
Support programs for helping youth serve on boards of local nonprofits, and implement a West Africa AIDS peer education project

SUPPORTING LOCAL NONPROFITS

Arts & Culture

Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce: Youth Cultural Service
Collect, organize and promote information about Washtenaw County K-12 arts/cultural programs

Ann Arbor Art Center: ArtMakers Kids and Teens
Provide high quality, free visual art education courses to low-income students ages 5-17 at neighborhood sites in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti

Ann Arbor Cantata Singers: Student Outreach Program
Joint concert with Huron High School Choir

Ann Arbor Civic Theater: Season Sponsor

Ann Arbor Opera Theatre: The Marriage of Figaro
Presented to 1,200 4th graders in the Ann Arbor Public School District

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra: Ensembles in Your Classroom (Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti)
The Symphony presents ensemble visits to schools

Ann Arbor Teen Center: Separate is Unequal
This project honors the 50th anniversary of the US Supreme Court's pivotal Brown v. Board of Education decision by asking teens to explore the legacies of that decision in their lives

Ann Arbor Transit Authority: On-Board Art Exhibition Program

Ann Arbor Youth Chorale: Winter Concert

The Ark: Ann Arbor Folk Festival

Artrain: Ann Arbor 'Sneak Preview' of Native Views
Support for educational programs for area elementary students

Chelsea Area Players: Chelsea Area Players Junior Theatre

Chelsea Chamber Players: River Raisin Ragtime Revue Educational Workshops (Ypsilanti Schools)
Provides a series of educational workshops celebrating diversity and creativity in American music and society

Corner Health Center: The Corner Theatre Troupe
Teens present education about substance abuse, and HIV & STD prevention through dramatic performance

County Connection Chapter – Sweet Adelines International: Harmony Hoedown

Dance Gallery Foundation: Peter Sparling Dance Company's 10th Anniversary Season

Eastern Michigan University Foundation: Pease Concert Series/Friends of Chamber Music at Pease
The series offers high quality musical and outreach events free of charge to the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor communities

Edison Institute: Public and School Programs – Ypsilanti

Family Learning Institute of Ann Arbor: Clubhouse Theater

Friends of the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra: Season Support

Michigan Chamber Brass: Spring Concert Featuring Youth Concert Winner

Ozone House: Project Speak Out
Youth-driven, spoken word performance program designed to attract both the beginner and experienced poet

Peace Neighborhood Center: Youth Academy
Children will create and present three multi-faceted performances

Performance Network: 2003-2004 Professional Season

School for the Performing Arts – Ann Arbor: December Holiday Showcase Season

Sphinx Organization: Sphinx Classical Connections – Ypsilanti
Increase the awareness of talented minority musicians and build appreciation of classical music in local schools, churches and community venues

Vincent York's Jazzistry: Finding Our Rhythm Through Jazzistry
Musicians take audiences 'time-traveling' through the evolution of American music, showing the interaction of many cultures and historic events

Washtenaw County Head Start: Arts Programs

Ypsilanti District Library: Library Park Plaza Restoration
Artistic reinterpretation of an existing outdoor fountain and urban pocket park

Science Education

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum: Teacher Education Workshops – Spring 2004

City of Ann Arbor – Leslie Science Center: Integrating Science – Building Connections Between Classroom Work and Field Study

Michigan Reach Out!: Reach Out! Math-Science Middle School Mentoring Centers
Link college students and community members with children to promote science and math confidence

Tower Education Association: Summers-Knoll School
Internet Guide to Plant Collections of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens

University of Michigan – WISE Program: Southeastern Michigan Science Fair

Washtenaw Literacy: One-on-One Tutoring



If you would like information about Pfizer's Community Grants program, please send an email to communityprograms@pfizer.com. Include your complete mailing address. Materials for the January 30, 2004 grant round will be mailed in mid-December.

over



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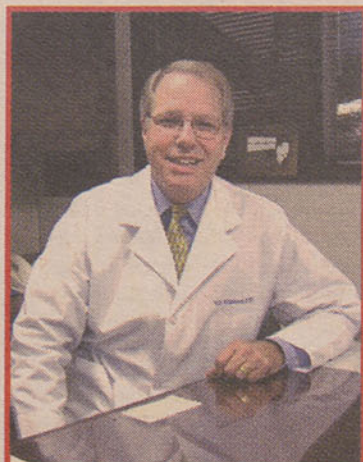
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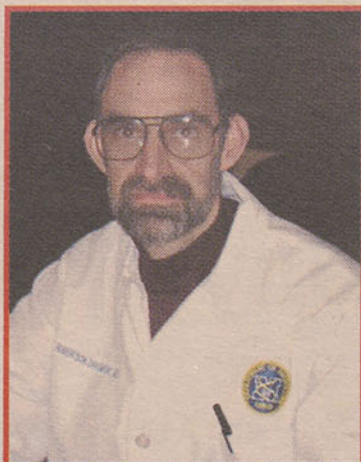
Leaders in the Medical Community Believe . . .

. . . The Need Is Real. The Time Is Now.



"Because of the diseases we treat with surgical intervention, both surgeons and their patients rely heavily on the availability of blood. Particularly, in emergency situations, our patients couldn't survive without the public's generosity to donate blood along with the help of the American Red Cross."

- **Mac Whitehouse, M.D.**
Vascular Surgeon
Chairman, Dept. of Surgery
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital



"Because our patients rely heavily on the blood provided by the American Red Cross and the generosity of the donors of southeastern Michigan, in many ways, what we do would not be possible without it."

- **Robertson Davenport, M.D.**
Medical Director, U-M
Health System Blood Bank



"The Red Cross provides invaluable service not only to the medical community but the community in general. As a surgeon, the help that the Red Cross continually gives throughout the years has been great. We trust the Red Cross completely and because they have provided so much to this community, it's time for all of us to give back."

- **Otto Gago, M.D.**
Cardiovascular and Thoracic
Surgeon
St. Joseph Mercy Health System



"We have an opportunity to help an organization that helps all of us."

- **Richard Prager, M.D.**
Clinical Professor of Surgery
Head, Division of Adult
Cardiac Care
U-M Health System



"The work of the Red Cross is absolutely critical to the care we provide to patients with cancer. We all benefit from a strong local Red Cross presence."

- **Phil Stella, M.D.**
Oncologist, St. Joseph Mercy
Health System



"As a Laboratory Medical Director, the provision of a sufficient, safe blood supply by the Red Cross to our area hospitals is crucial. But, the Red Cross is an invaluable resource to the safety of our communities in many other ways - ranging from first aid and CPR training to community disaster relief. The Red Cross deserves our support as our local safety advocate and 'safety net'."

- **Tracey Wentz, M.D.**
Medical Director of Laboratory
Chelsea Community Hospital
St. Joseph Mercy Health System
Staff Pathologist



"Our work is entirely dependent on the generosity and giving of others."

- **Francis Pagani, M.D.**
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Director, Heart Transplant Program
U-M Health System

To Pledge Your Support or for More Information on the Washtenaw County Chapter Red Cross Capital Campaign, Contact Campaign Director, Mary Williams at (734) 769-8520, ext 250



American Red Cross

The Need Is Real. The Time Is Now.



"The Washtenaw County Chapter of the American Red Cross is 100% locally funded. We thank everyone in our community for their generous support."

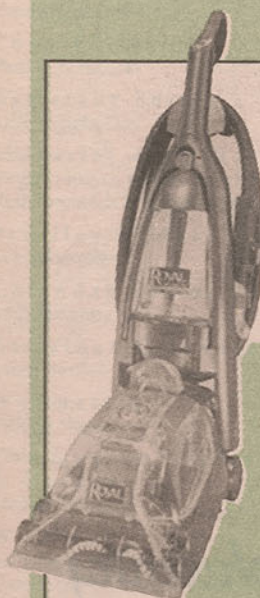
- **Mary Williams**
Capital Campaign Director
Washtenaw County Chapter
American Red Cross



www.wc-redcross.org



Great Gift Ideas



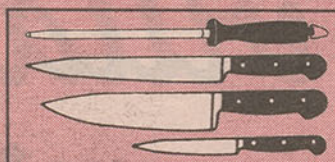
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- ♦ **Sunday, December 14, 10:00 AM**
Call for location.

www.ic.org/touchstone

Details: Nick at 734-663-5516 or nick@sunward.org

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John Hilton

Managing Editor
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Copy Editor
Paul R. Schwankl

Assistant Editor
Sally Wright Day

Editorial Assistants
Virginia Hayes • Mike Koschik
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Profiles Editor
Eve Silberman

Calendar Editor
John Hinchey

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**Community Observer
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Michael Betzold

Writers
Sally Bjork • Kevin Duke • Jay Forstner
Dale Franz • Charmie Gholson • Jon Hall
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James M. Manheim • Laura McReynolds
Tony McReynolds • Elizabeth Méricas
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Daniel Sturm • Keith Taylor • Susan Todoroff
Erick Trickey • Margaret Yang

Photographers
Sally Bjork • Marcia Ledford
Carine Lutz • Jeremy Salmon
Daniel Sturm • Margaret White Teall
Cibele Vieira • J. Adrian Wylie

Artists
Tim Athan • Richard Campanelli
John Copley • Caron Valentine-Marsh

Creative Director
Caron Valentine-Marsh

Production Coordinator
Ann Yoskovich

Senior Designer
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Design & Production
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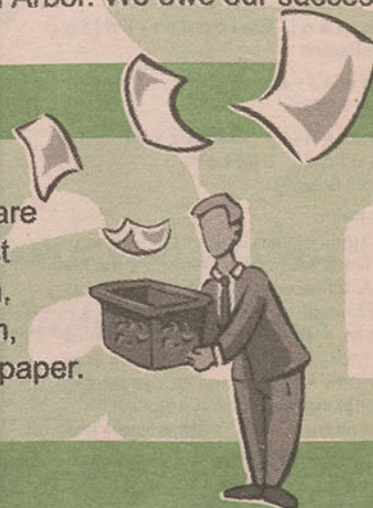
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Twenty-five years ago, Recycle Ann Arbor started one of the country's first curbside recycling programs. Today, the program has evolved into one of the country's best by all measures of performance - a tribute to the partnership formed between RAA and the City of Ann Arbor. We owe our success to the residents of Ann Arbor.

BUSINESS RECYCLING

RAA's Business Recycling program provides local businesses with comprehensive recycling programs that are tailored around their specific needs. RAA will pick up most recyclable items that are accepted at the Drop Off Station, including fluorescent bulbs, computers, pallets, Styrofoam, glass, corrugated cardboard and, of course, mixed office paper. Call (734) 662-6288 to start recycling in your business.



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RAA operates Washtenaw County's most comprehensive Drop Off Station, located at 2950 East Ellsworth in Ann Arbor. Open to the general public, the DOS is a fully staffed facility open six days a week year round. This innovative program provides residents and businesses the opportunity to recycle various materials, including rechargeable batteries, computers, electronics and anti-freeze.

THE REUSE CENTER

Founded in 1996 as a way to promote the reduction of waste through reuse of materials, the ReUse Center hosts over 20,000 square feet of retail space and accepts donations of reusable household goods, office supplies, furniture and building materials that it resells to the general public at affordable prices. The ReUse Center encourages the community to support the environment by donating and purchasing reusable items. The ReUse Center's success allows RAA to support its other programs.



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Built inside the ReUse Center, the Environmental House Energy & Green Building Resource Center was constructed utilizing healthy and environmentally attractive materials. The Environmental House offers a wide variety of environmental displays and acts as an educational center for those interested in green building techniques. The Environmental House has emerged as a key player in Ann Arbor's green building movement.

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Ann Arbor Observer

December 2003

vol. 28 • no. 4

Cover: The 1869 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on North Division. Acrylic painting on illustration board by Richard Campanelli.

features

27 Fighting Factory Farms *Daniel Sturm*

How a soft-spoken nurse-turned-farmer helped blow the whistle on a new breed of giant agricultural polluters.

33 Poisoned Lives *Yma A. Johnson*

Local families struggle with the devastation of fetal alcohol syndrome.

41 Rags to Riches *Craig Ross*

This year, the Michigan men's basketball team is loaded with talent. But is more, more?

47 Standing Out in the Crowd *Laura McReynolds*

with *Tony McReynolds, Peggy Page*

The Observer's 2003 Holiday Guide.



departments

9 Up Front

*Laura Bartlett, Dale Franz,
John Hilton, Kyle Norris,
Eve Silberman, Carolyn Stone*

11 Inside Ann Arbor

*Eve Silberman, Laura Bartlett,
Jon Hall, Sandor Slomovits,
Tim Athan*

16 Calls & Letters

- Bikers on South U
- Two corrections

19 Crime Map

21 Ann Arborites

Therapist and filmmaker
Laurie White Penny Schreiber
Fish car lady Janice
Hendrick *Susan Todoroff*



25 My Town

Motorized madness
Charmie Gholson

57 Restaurants

Eve *Elizabeth Méricas*
Jerusalem Garden
Margaret Yang

61 Marketplace Changes

*Laura McReynolds,
Paul R. Schwankl*
Something for everyone
on the southeast side
• Nick Easton's Circus on
South First • Ceragem
superbeds • and more.

127 Back Page

I Spy Contest
Sally Bjork
Fake Ad Update
Jay Forstner

what's happening

73 Events

John Hinchey & Laura Bartlett
Daily events in Ann Arbor
during December, including
reviews of Neil Simon's *The
Good Doctor* at the Purple
Rose (at right), the early-
music chorus Vox, fiction
writer and U-M English prof
Nicholas Delbanco, singer-

songwriter Jane Siberry per-
forming classical Christmas
songs, mandolin duo Marshall
& Thile, Max Klinger's proto-
surrealist German prints at the
UMMA, and singer-songwriter
Gregory Stovetop.

107 Music at Nightspots

John Hinchey

128 Events at a Glance

John Hinchey



advertising sections

111 Personals, Classifieds,
& Service Advertisers

117 Real Estate Guide
Home Sales Map *Kevin Duke*



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- Teaching to individual interests

Enrollment available to any student living in the Ann Arbor School District
Call for an appointment; Ann Arbor Open at Mack School,
920 Miller Avenue, 994-1910, Naomi Zikmund-Fisher, Principal

"Everyone who has ever made something of themselves did so because someone actively listened to them and thought they had something going for them. Ann Arbor Open School alumni are 'movers and shakers' in our community."

—ANN ARBOR PARENT



Bryant/Pattengill K-2 Early Childhood Center



- Free Full Day Kindergarten available to any student in the Ann Arbor Public School district
- Afternoon Enrichment Programs
- First Steps and Headstart programs
- Before and after school care
- Literacy collaborative school
- Unique configuration with Pattengill Elementary School grade 3-5
- Art, Music, Physical Education & Media Center
- Bryant/Pattengill Literacy Endowment Fund

Call for an appointment, Bryant Elementary, 2150 Santa Rosa, 971-5902, Dr. Luther Corbitt Jr., Principal

"All my children have thrived both academically and socially in the warm, nurturing environment at Bryant."

—BRYANT PARENT

Roberto Clemente Student Development Center

- Grades 8th – 12th
- Structured setting for students that need an alternative to the traditional high school
- Assists students in achieving academic success while improving self-esteem
- Small class sizes
- High accountability
- Nurturing, caring learning environment
- Personal staff attention

"We give them a positive school experience-with structure. I know I can't save every kid, but when they succeed, I succeed."

—JOSEPH DULIN, PRINCIPAL



Call for an appointment, Roberto Clemente Student Development Center, 4377 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti, 434-4611, Joseph Dulin, Principal

Stone High School



- High school for students age 15-19 that have been unsuccessful in a traditional high school
- School of Choice for Washtenaw County residents
- Block scheduling – 4 classes per day
- Earn credits towards your HS diploma/ GED option for 18/19 year olds
- Individual attention
- On-site childcare
- Drug screening and support

Call for an appointment, Stone High School, 2800 Stone School Rd., 971-COOL (2665), Gayl Dybdahl, Principal

"Without Stone School, I would not have had the motivation or interest in learning that I do now."

—STONE SCHOOL STUDENT

No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity available in any school on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, height, weight, marital status, or disability. The Ann Arbor Public School District will provide reasonable aids and accommodations to individuals who desire information regarding the education of District students.

www.aaps.k12.mi.us • 734-994-2236 Ann Arbor Public Schools Communications Office





Digging in:

"Borders store number one; strike number one—it's a watershed

moment in retail," said Borders worker Gayle Stuhberg shortly after workers at the downtown store struck on November 8. Stuhberg was in good spirits, buoyed by community support. Nearby coffee shops—even Starbucks, a frequent target of anticorporate protests—were lining up to send hot drinks to warm the demonstrators against the bitter winds of late fall. An organization called Borders Readers United was helping picket. Still, Stuhberg was expecting to hunker down for the long haul—the company's "idea of negotiating is renting rooms, sitting there, stonewalling," she complained. Affiliated with United Food and Commercial Workers Local 876, the union is one of only two in the 400-store Borders empire. That the downtown store was the very first Borders helps explain the tenacity of the strikers. "Forgive us our hubris," wrote an employee on an Internet posting. "Our pride in working here, being the first, helped us deny the fact that we are overqualified and underpaid." Although the unionization drive was spurred in part by hurt pride after cuts in the store's inventory and staffing, the strike has come down to pay and benefits—and so far, the company shows no sign of budging. If nothing else, the strikers can hope that Starbucks will keep the coffee coming.

Peace

signs: The fighting in the Middle East isn't over—and neither is the conflict at home. Henry Herskovitz of Jewish Witnesses for Peace says a tire on his car was punctured and a taillight smashed in separate October incidents, presumably by people who don't like his "Stop U.S. Aid to Israel" bumper sticker. And organizers of anti-Iraq-war protests estimate that they've already given away 100 peace signs to replace placards stolen from local yards. Some Ann Arborites have seen their signs removed repeatedly, and in at least one case, an entire block was stripped. Not all the stolen signs are gone for good, though. Last summer a peace activist happened to be at the ReUse Center when a woman dropped off a load of sixty signs, saying they'd been abandoned in her yard. All were salvaged and replaced.



Wine scene: When Whole Foods moved to Washtenaw, few missed its cramped original spot on East Stadium. Not so with the closing of the chain's other local store, the Merchant of Vino in Plymouth Mall. Local

wine buyers fretted that while the Merchant boasted more than 1,000 wine labels, the new Whole Foods had only hundreds. But it appears that the local wine scene will emerge from the changes stronger than ever. The Big Ten Market on Packard also carries 1,000 different labels. And Village Corner at South Forest and South University has 5,000—possibly the largest selection in Michigan. Even Whole Foods stocks what buyer Phil Lanuti calls "quality and value in every price range." Ann Arbor is "an extremely sophisticated wine market," says Rod Johnson, one of Village Corner's four buyers; to keep his staff sharp, VC owner Dick Scheer holds tastings that expose them to six dozen wines a week. Meanwhile, Trader Joe's will be moving its merchandise, including wine, into Whole Foods' vacated spot on Stadium, and Bello Vino will open in the Merchant of Vino building, likely at the beginning of December. Bello Vino owner Mark Garmo says he plans to stock at least as many labels as his predecessor did.

What does it cost?

\$17—to equip a group of volunteers to monitor water quality in an area stream, from the Huron River Watershed Council . . . **\$3**—to provide an easy-to-read infant care information packet for a low-income pregnant adolescent at Ypsilanti's Corner Health Center . . . **One hour a week**—to be a reading or writing coach at the Family Learning Institute . . . **\$10**—to buy a welcome basket for a formerly homeless tenant moving into Avalon Housing . . . **Three hours**—to plant a garden at an Avalon residence on a spring weekend . . . **\$5,000**—amount students at St. Francis School are raising to buy a "gift ark" of animals that will make thirty families in developing countries more self-sufficient, from Heifer International . . . **Free**—one cup of food for a hungry person, by clicking on thehungersite.com.

Downtown daydreams: This is the moment for people who care about how downtown Ann Arbor looks—in other words, just about everybody in town—to make their ideas heard. With the overwhelming passage of proposal B in November's election, the city plans to bring in officials from Lexington, Kentucky, to talk about that city's three-year-old purchase of development rights program—a

UPFRONT

much more useful model for Ann Arbor, mayor John

Hieftje says, than the gigantic Boulder greenbelt focused on by the *Ann Arbor News*. At the same time, Hieftje is moving to establish guidelines for how downtown will grow. Previously the planning commission had been looking at ways to limit building height. Now Hieftje is taking the effort in a new direction, setting up a task force to see how the city can get more residential development downtown by removing barriers instead of erecting them. The task force, which is to make its report next June, will look particularly at what the city can do to encourage construction of housing in the \$230,000–\$300,000 range. "Everybody has an opinion," says city planning director Karen Popek Hart. Her staff hopes to come up with specific language about what the atmosphere should be on streets where new buildings are put. That shared frame of reference would guide both the developers who propose building projects and the planning commissioners and council members who vote on them.

Pink-slip party: It looks like an ordinary after-work gathering at Arbor Brewing Company:

men and women mingle, jackets draped over chairs. The giveaway is the word that softly ricochets throughout the room: *job*. Resumes in hand, laid-off workers chat with employers who are looking for good people. The "pink-slip party" is held every first Tuesday, courtesy of the state employment service, MichiganWorks. Host Ron Wimple of MW ticks off employers that laid off talented people or closed in past months: Eaton, Conway, Workbench, MCI, AT&T, Pfizer, Jacobson's, Exemplar, the U-M. Washtenaw County's current unemployment rate is 5 percent. But MichiganWorks has thousands of jobs to fill, and the casual setting lowers anxieties: a warm-up, no desk in between, something cold to relieve dry mouth. "Engineering and contractual firms have found good people," says Wimple. "Borders too." Still, the very word—*unemployed*—sticks in the craw. A woman who lost a professional position demurs, "I prefer to say I'm not working now."

Found sound:

While crossing the Leslie Science Center parking lot on their way to work, staffers of the city's natural area preservation division stumbled upon a fortuitous yet puzzling job perk: overnight, a private compact disc collection had been scattered across the lot. "It's a deep mystery what the CDs were doing there," says one. "But for CDs that fell out of the sky, they were totally worth it." The windfall included an album by jazz/fusion artist Bill Laswell and a home-mixed disc spotlighting Brazilian electronica, pop-heavy dance tracks, and good old-fashioned techno. The finder we talked to says that the discs had plenty of "interesting stuff" and that even the Laswell was "pleasant," although "too New Agey for my tastes."

The puzzle is how the discs landed in this parking lot, which is used mainly by the school buses and minivans that transport children to the center's camps. An early theory was that they fell out of a vehicle, but then more discs were found several days later—on the opposite side of the lot. The second batch had reggae, mainstream electronica, and a rock band's three-track demo. The finder is now wondering whether to credit the bounty to rambunctious joyriding youths or to half of a bickering couple chucking a lover's CDs out the window. In either case, he's prepared to return the collection if the owner steps forward—although he admits he'd be tempted to "dub the vital tracks before handing them over."

First class from the North Pole:

Who's behind the Main Street Area Association's big red "Letters to Santa" mailbox in front of Generations? MSAA's press release alludes mysteriously to armies of scribbling elves. Turns out there's really just one very busy elf, Courthouse Square resident Audrey Libke. According to MSAA's Ellie Serras, last year Libke single-handedly answered about 150 letters that ranged from heart-melting drawings on construction paper to meticulous gift inventories. Each writer who drops a note (with return address, please) in the mailbox—a real one, donated by the Stadium Boulevard post office and festively painted by local artist Christopher Buehlman—receives a mailed form letter from Libke—er, Santa. "Your heart just goes out to all of them," says Serras. "It's one of the most fun things we do."



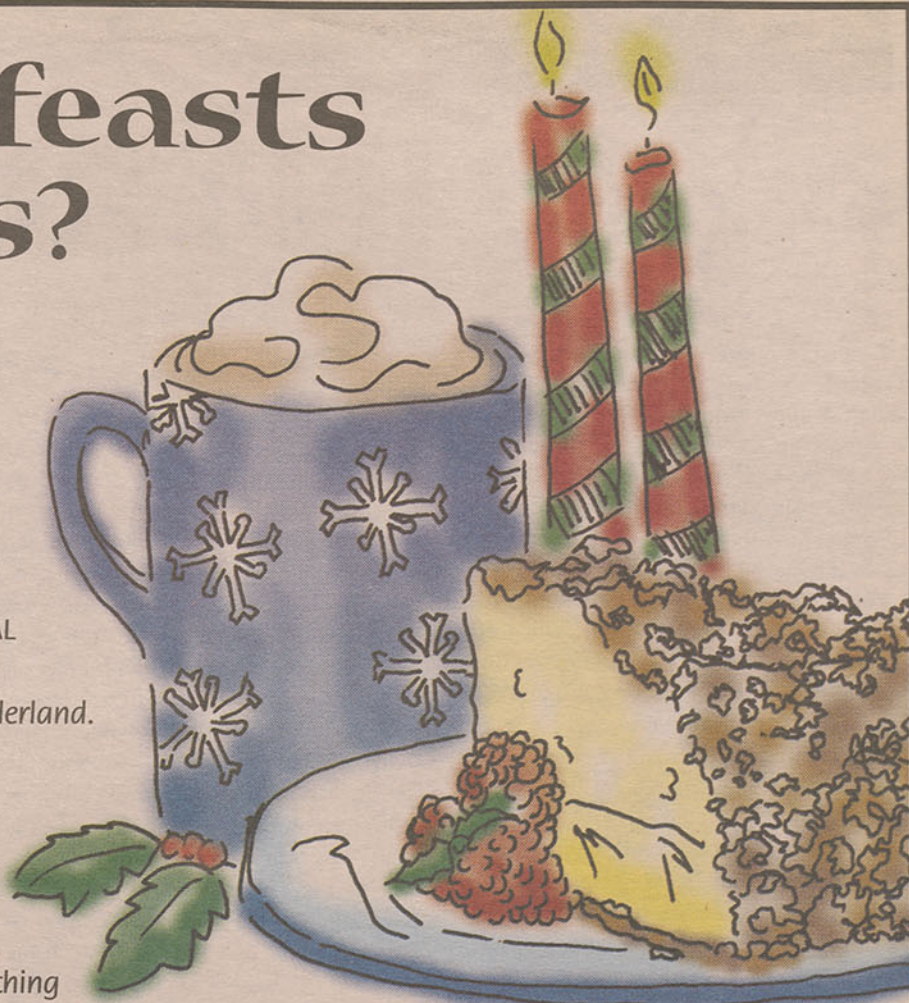
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INSIDE

ann arbor

SYMBOLISM

The Politics of Homelessness

A shelter falls victim to political correctness.

The city donated \$1 million to help build the county's new fifty-bed homeless shelter on Huron, and is chipping in another \$145,000 this year to help run it. Yet the Salvation Army is scrambling to cover holes in its budget after the city refused to give a penny to the church's thirty-five-bed shelter for homeless families and individuals.

The Army has been operating its shelter

ing cuts, and Felton says he never got any other explanation. But former councilwoman Heidi Cowing Herrell confirms that the money for the Staples Center was cut in the community development executive committee, whose members included Herrell and First Ward rep Kim Groome. Herrell says that the committee's decision

A city committee decided that the Salvation Army violated the city's human rights ordinance by not allowing gay couples to share quarters.

was based on members' belief that the Army violated the city's human rights ordinance by not allowing gay couples to share quarters at the Staples Center.

Felton says the Army doesn't allow *any* unmarried couples to share living quarters, straight or gay. He says the shelter has never asked guests their sexual orientation, and that in ten years,

supporter Ken Staples—the namesake of the Staples Center—says he believes the city is discriminating against the shelter because of its religious affiliation. "They are a church," he says. "That's a problem with some people."

Felton warns that the funding cut may cause the Army to "push people out the door because we don't have the money to keep them." It's hard to see how that contributes to the county's lofty goal to "eliminate homelessness in Washtenaw County."

ADVENTURE

Matt and Smokey's Long Ride

Back home for the winter, Matt Parker is still determined to be the first person to complete the American Discovery Trail on horseback.

When Parker graduated from Pioneer High in 1998, he was like most kids: he didn't know what he wanted to do, and he spent a good deal of time in aimless socializing. It was a lot of fun, he says, but it wasn't taking him anywhere in particular.

Parker also wondered whether he had what it takes when the going gets tough. Four years later, in June 2002, when he earned his bachelor's degree from Hope College, the doubts remained. Months living with his brother in California didn't help, either.

Then he had an idea.

"I always wanted to push myself to the absolute breaking point to see where I would break," he says. So he bought a Tennessee racking horse named Smokey and began planning an epic ride along the 6,800-mile American Discovery Trail, which runs coast to coast. Parker trained hard last winter, tending bar at night to raise money. In May he hit the trail outside Sacramento and headed east.

He and Smokey covered between twenty-five and forty miles a day, across mountains and deserts, moving ever eastward. Parker says the trip was "very, very stressful" and often left him "dirty, disgruntled, bored, happy, and sad, all at the same time." He says he's seen every animal that "walks or crawls," including a mountain lion that attacked Smokey. (Although he



Separate and unequal: the county's new Delonis Center shelter will get \$145,000 from the city this year, while funding for the Salvation Army's Staples Center was cut from \$25,000 to zero. As a result, major Gary Felton says, he may have to "push people out the door."



for more than twenty years, and the city has been helping pay its operating costs for almost as long. City officials originally recommended giving \$25,000 from the city's human services fund to the Staples Family Center this year. Instead, major Gary Felton said the group received a letter saying they wouldn't get any money.

The letter blamed the decision on fund-

he's never had a gay couple ask for shelter. But it's not the first time the church's traditional morality has run afoul of political correctness. When the Army offered to run the new county shelter, it was turned down after then council Democrat (and now state rep) Chris Kolb objected to its ban on unmarried couples.

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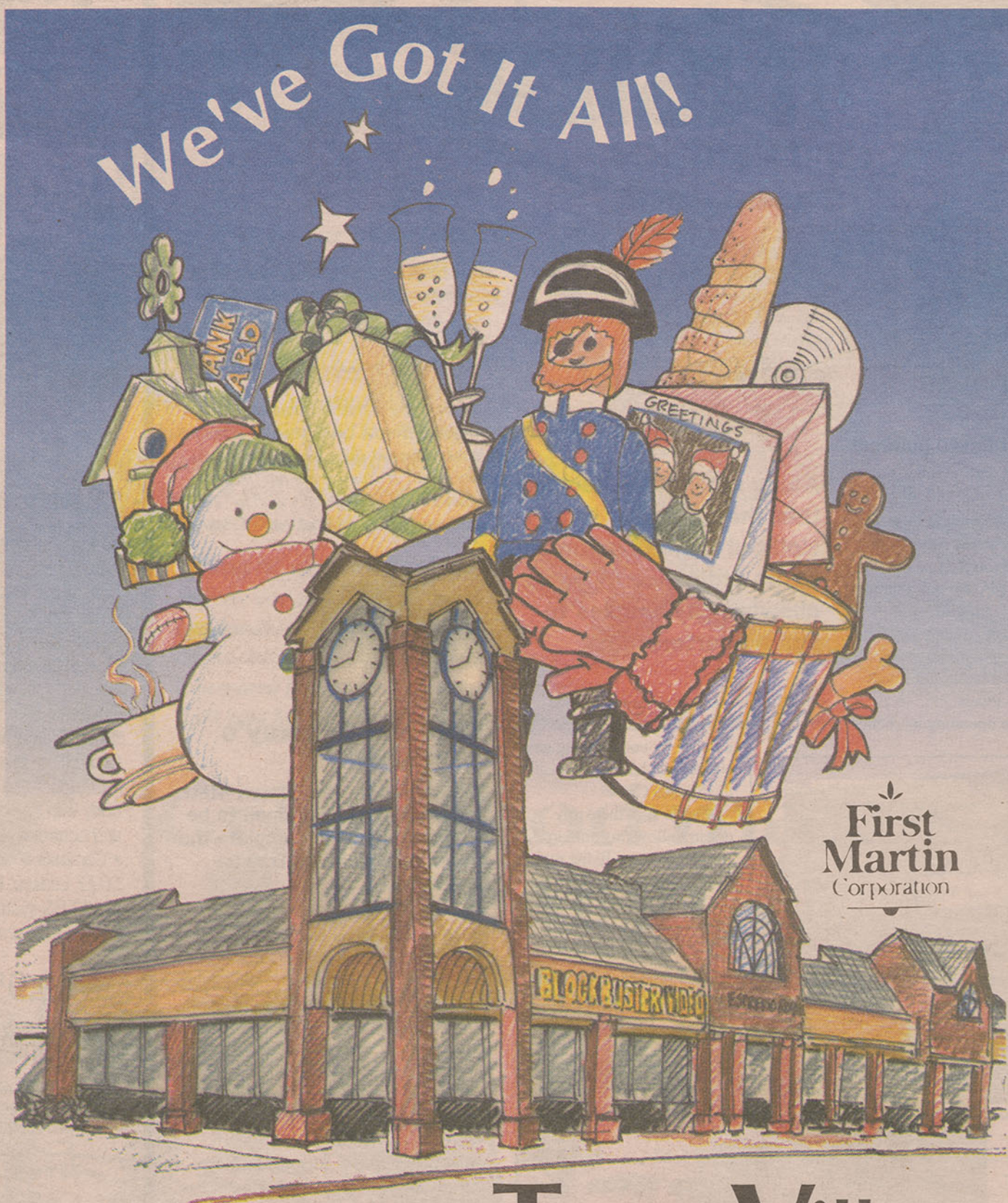
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LIFE IN ANN ARBOR

Tim Athan



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downplays that incident, he is willing to say that the horse eluded the big cat by plunging across a river and scrambling up a far bank: "I found him an hour later, all bloodied, blowing steam out his nostrils.")

In August a rancher in Utah lent him a mule to carry gear. He also picked up a dog named Boo for companionship. Last fall, as he reached Colorado, Parker wisely decided to wait till spring before entering the mountains. Now he and Boo are back in Ann Arbor for the winter. Smokey and Danny Boy, the mule, are stabled in Utah.

At his parents' house on Scio Church Road—they're the folks with the big M Go Blue on their barn roof—Parker recalls how people had trouble grasping the idea of the trip. They'd ask, "Where's your horse trailer?" Then, he says, there's that misconception that riding a horse across the country is faster than hiking. "That's a lot of crap."

"I've got nothing against hikers," he says, but "I've hiked half the distance on foot . . . walking next to the animal." His folks helped out by stashing water and supplies where he'd need them. On the trail he has to water Smokey (who drinks eight to fifteen gallons daily), rest him, maintain his feet, and avoid animal attacks. "It's a supreme challenge," he says, "to take care of this large animal."

With 1,000 miles behind him, Parker no longer doubts his toughness. He expects to return to the trail as soon as the mountain passes clear next

spring. Meanwhile, he keeps in shape, works in a local outdoor-gear store, and reflects on the kindness of the strangers who helped him along the way with food, shelter, and companionship. "I marvel at how generous they are," he says, "with so much less than what we take for granted."



Matt and Smokey setting out from California last May. With 1,000 miles behind them, they'll resume their cross-country trek next spring.

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INSIDE ANN ARBOR *continued*

FRIENDSTERS

Jim Roll and Neal Pollack

A local musician explores the intersection of rock and literature.

Local alt-country singer-songwriter Jim Roll is back in town after a twenty-three-city nationwide tour. But it wasn't Roll's own tour. He was playing guitar in an ad hoc rock band backing Austin-based "literary bad boy" Neal Pollack, who's associated with the hip literary journal *McSweeney's*.

The tour promoted Pollack's new book, a fictitious history of rock 'n' roll called *Never Mind the Pollacks*, and a complementary CD of rock parodies. Pollack's October stop in Ann Arbor included a hilarious reading ("I borrow heavily from Márquez") at Shaman Drum. The

"Most writers want to be rock stars," Neal Pollack observed, "and many rock stars secretly want to be writers."

thirty-three-year-old writer's bristly persona, evident in his well-informed political rantfest blog, evaporated into politeness as he chatted postreading with fans. He somewhat magisterially invited them all to become his on-line "Friendsters"—and then urged them to "make it a Neal Pollack theme night" by attending his Blind Pig concert later that evening.

Roll, thirty-eight, caught Pollack at such a reading a few years ago. Knowing of Pollack's *McSweeney's* connection, Roll asked the magazine to produce his third CD, *Inhabiting the Ball*—eventually the first CD *McSweeney's* produced. Novelists Rick Moody and Denis Johnson contributed lyrics for eight of the CD's thirteen tracks, and the disc earned good reviews from the *New Yorker*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Village Voice*. Amazon picked *Inhabiting* as one of its ten best rock CDs of 2002.

Pollack was tapped by *McSweeney's* head Dave Eggers to write the liner notes for *Inhabiting the Ball*—an essay on ties between literature and rock 'n' roll. "Most writers want to be rock stars," Pollack observed, "and many rock stars secretly want to be writers." When Pollack wanted to go on tour, Roll returned the favor: after experimentally backing Pollack with a couple of other musicians a few times, he agreed to join Pollack's band.

At the October Blind Pig concert, Roll served as the second opening act, deliver-

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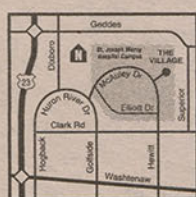
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ing a charged set that included two songs from *Inhabiting*: "Bonnie and Clyde," his get-up-and-dance tribute to Faye Dunaway's role in the film, and "Kickin' at the Traces Again," a wry self-portrait with an infectious clip-cloppy beat.



When McSweeney's published Jim Roll's CD, Neal Pollack (right) wrote the liner notes. Roll returned the favor by backing the writer on a national concert tour this fall.

When Pollack came onstage, Roll backed his vocals on guitar and even took a capable swing at the drums. Pollack thrashed through "New York City," an epithet-peppered number of refreshing lyrical simplicity; "Jenny in the Car, 1972," an unusual blend of obscenity and nostalgia; and other, less printable titles. He slung beer onto the floor in front of the crowd, tore off his shirt, hurled it with rage into the puddle of beer, and launched into a delirious yet clearly heartfelt version of "Purple Rain." At concert's end, Pollack apocalyptically prophesied, "Because of what has happened here tonight, the Bush administration will fall." He left the stage, pulled on his beer-soaked shirt, and resumed his preconcert station at the CD sales table, chatting amiably with passers-by.

The Pollack tour was a one-time gig, but Roll's already working on his fourth CD, due out in March 2004. In the meantime, you can catch him at this month's peace concert at the Ark December 21.

HISTORY

Prisoner and Liberator

A poignant meeting at the Wallenberg Lecture.

In his speech at Rackham Auditorium in October, Bill Basch, the thirteenth recipient of the U-M's Wallenberg Medal,

described being liberated from the Dachau concentration camp on April 29, 1945. When he invited questions from the audience, the first person to rise was Donald Brown, U-M psychology professor emeritus. Brown told Basch that he was one of the American troops who'd been at Dachau that day.

In an evening filled with emotional and at times wrenching moments, this was perhaps the most moving. Basch had described how, as a sixteen-year-old boy alone in Budapest in the summer of 1944, he had become one of Raoul Wallenberg's couriers. He had helped deliver the fake Swedish passports created by Wallenberg, a U-M grad, to save the lives of thousands of Jews. Late in 1944 Basch was captured by the Nazis and taken to Dachau.

When Brown stood up to speak, many people in the audience could not hear him. But Basch did. "You have no idea how we felt when we saw you coming through those fences," he said emotionally. "You were giving us life again. Thank you."

Brown arrived in Dachau as a medical aide with the Sixty-fifth Armored Infantry Battalion of the army's Twentieth Armored Division. He'd volunteered two years earlier, when he was a freshman at Harvard. "I was motivated to go in for ideological reasons. I was extremely anti-Nazi. Even as a little boy, I felt very strongly about the Spanish Civil War."

On April 29, 1945, Brown was in a half-track bound for Munich, when orders



In 1945, Donald Brown (left) was among the U.S. troops who liberated Dachau, where Bill Basch was a prisoner. They met again at the U-M this fall.

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came over the radio for his unit to "see what was going on at this village, Dachau." They'd heard that it was a concentration camp. "But, at our level, all we knew was that these were unpleasant places, where political prisoners, Jews, Gypsies, and homosexuals were..."—he pauses, fingers quotation marks in the air, and continues, "...concentrated. We had no idea what it was really like.

"As we approached the village, we began to encounter men in striped suits who had escaped. The German guards were fleeing, because they knew we were coming. These were inmates who were still able to walk. They flagged us down. We took as many as we could into our half-track, and they began to tell us what we were going to see. This was all within a kilometer or two of the village. So, we're there before we could take it all in. And suddenly, we were there. And there it was."

Even sixty years later, Brown seems to have no words to describe what he saw. He simply opens his copy of the Twentieth Armored Division's "yearbook" to the

☎ Calls & ✉ Letters

Bikers on South U

Last month's Up Front on downtown's genteel motorcycle gang noted that members were asked to leave Good Time Charley's because they weren't drinking enough beer. South U merchant Cynthia Shevel called to point out that the bar's hostility was the exception—most of the street's merchants had welcomed the bikers. "We gave them free parking—the meters were covered with bags—and a number of us stayed open later at night," Shevel pointed out. "We apologized to the motorcycle group—told them, 'We're really sorry' [about the incident]. Many of us would welcome them back."

Two corrections

In our November story on cuts in Medicaid dental funding, it was U-M assistant dean Thomas Veryser, not Ypsilanti dentist Robert Hern, who voiced concern that Michigan might lose its entire Medicaid dental system because of the cuts. Our apologies to both dentists.

Greg Owen, cafe communications specialist at Borders, called to say a November Quick Bite got the price wrong for a small cup of coffee at the bookstore's cafe. It's \$1.65 in-store with free refills, or \$1.35 for takeout.



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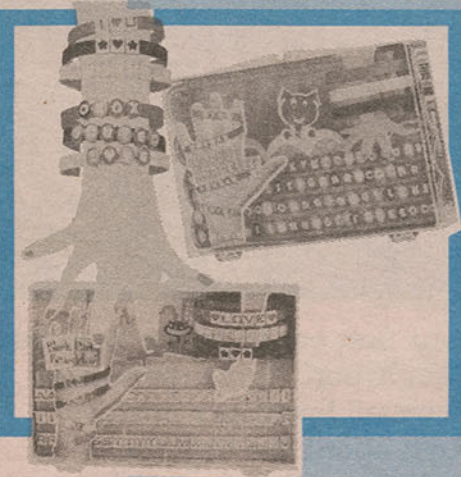
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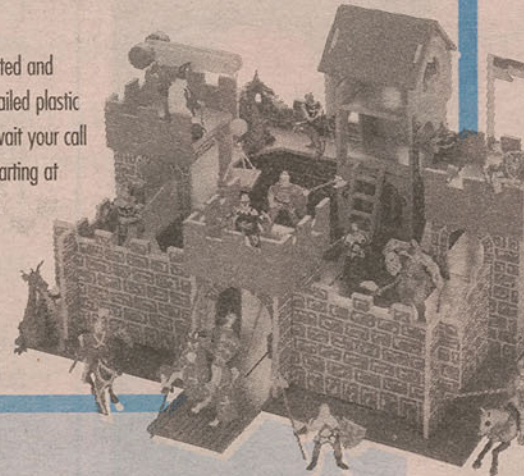
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pages with the horror-filled photos. "We didn't stay long—overnight. Didn't sleep. Tried to help. We did what we could. Couldn't do much. I had my two little medical bags. We radioed back saying what's needed here is a company of engineers, a field hospital, that sort of thing. And then we got orders to catch up with our unit to take Munich.

"When you see something like that, it's so big, you can't encompass it, really. I never spoke much about it."

A few months later his unit got orders for home. "They took the very cars we'd liberated at Dachau and loaded us into them." As they rode through France at night, there was a terrible crash. "We'd run head-on into another locomotive. Every-

"As we approached the village, we began to encounter men in striped suits who had escaped. The German guards were fleeing, because they knew we were coming."

body but me in my unit was killed." Brown points to a picture of railroad cars crushed like accordions, and says, "That car was the one I was in."

"I landed in New York the day the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima," he continues. He was married less than two weeks later, the day the war ended in Japan.

Fifty years went by. Brown went on to a distinguished career at Berkeley, Bryn Mawr, and, since 1964, the U-M. With his wife, June, he raised a family. His wartime experiences were forgotten. "You're just too busy getting on with your life. My children never really knew. They had all my army junk that they played with when they were little kids, playing soldiers."

And then it was the fiftieth anniversary of D day. "They had all this stuff on television, and they would interview these old men who were my colleagues. And these guys would start to cry. And I would sit there, watching TV, and I would start to cry. My wife said, 'What's the matter?' And I said, 'Nothing.' And I stopped right away. Well, what was it? There were no specific memories, no traumatic memories. It was just some kind of emotion welled up. It just brought back somehow the awareness of that whole episode of one's life. I know an awful lot of guys said the same thing. From that time, people began to realize that 'Look, we are getting old. In only a few years, none of us will be around.' So people began to talk. Their children were all grown up and were beginning to ask questions."

Today a plaque in Dachau remembers and honors the men of the Twentieth Armored Division for their role in liberating the camp. And Brown is now talking regularly about his wartime experiences. Since 1999 he has been teaching a course at the U-M, "Why Grandpa Went to War."

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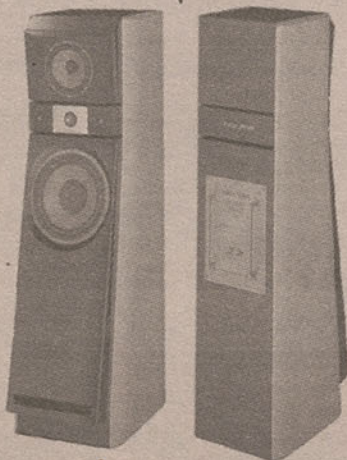
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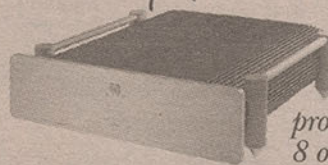


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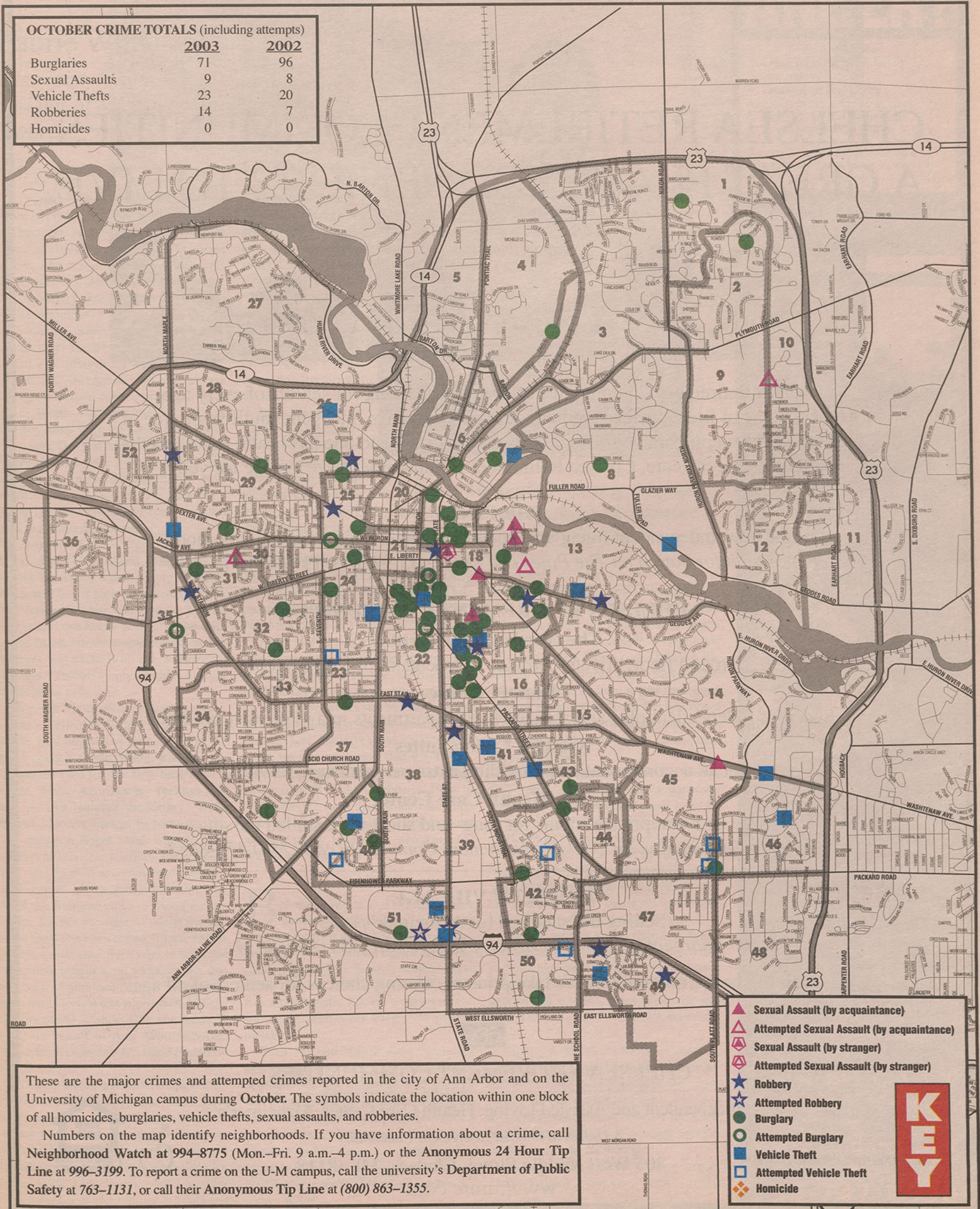
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OCTOBER CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2003	2002
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Sexual Assaults	9	8
Vehicle Thefts	23	20
Robberies	14	7
Homicides	0	0



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ANN ARBORITES

Laurie White

*Therapist, filmmaker,
and pal of Michael
Moore*

The 1989 movie *Roger & Me* was conceived in Laurie White's Ann Arbor living room. At the time, White and her husband, Jack Stanzler, were worried about their longtime friend Michael Moore, who was in a funk over losing his job as editor of *Mother Jones* magazine. "We should try to make a movie together," White remembers telling Moore. "We were trying to cheer him up," she explains.

For years the trio of activists had attended alternative films together in Flint, Detroit, and Ann Arbor. "We were always saying, 'We could make a better movie,'" recalls White. The topic they picked was one they knew well: the economic woes of Flint after General Motors threw 40,000 people out of work. "First we were going to make a straight documentary," says White. "Then we thought, 'No, people are going to shut down, be depressed. We need to make a dark comedy.'"

"Jack and I were the producers of *Roger & Me*—we raised money, set up shoots, fed crew, drove people around," White recalls. "It took three years." When they finished, White and Stanzler figured they would put *Roger & Me* "in the back of our car and drive around to community colleges and show it on the weekends," she says. "Probably only Michael thought it was going to be a hit."

Roger & Me created a sensation at Colorado's Telluride Film Festival. "The movie was finished at four a.m." on the day it opened, recalls White, who saw the completed film for the first time at Telluride. White describes her feelings that day as "like winning the lottery." Built around Moore's attempt to confront then GM chairman Roger Smith with the devastation of Flint, the hilarious and scathing film went on to huge commercial success.

Roger & Me taught White that she could use film and video to widen the audience for her message of social justice. Since then she has created fifteen videos on topics that range from yoga to domestic violence to international adoption. She has also been a consultant or associate producer on ten others. White is proudest of *Keep On Dreaming*, a short film she made in 1992 on behalf of Ann Arbor's SAFE House bond proposal. The bond passed by a huge margin.

"I don't know anyone who has the intensity of social commitment that Laurie has," says Irene Butter, White's friend of twenty years. Both women are members of Zeitouna, a group of twelve Arab and Jewish women who have been coming together twice a month since 2002 to work on behalf of peace and justice in Israel and Palestine. White is also one of the

founders of the Ann Arbor Area Committee for Peace, which formed a week after 9/11 to promote non-violent alternatives to the war on terrorism.

White, forty-eight, traces the roots of her social commitment to the Jewish community in Flint, where she grew up. "My Jewish heritage informs my interest in social justice," White says. "There is a long-standing tradition in the Jewish community to work on *tikkun olam*, which is Hebrew for 'repair of the world.'"

In elementary school White organized a successful effort to change the dress code, by asking all of the girls to wear pants on the same day. In junior high she put together a teach-in against the Vietnam War. Graduating a year early from Flint Northern High School, White passed up Radcliffe to attend "activist" Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

After college White moved to San Francisco. But in 1978, after she returned broke from a trip to Europe, she decided to go back to Flint briefly to earn some money. Within two weeks she had landed a job as a counselor at a sexual assault crisis center. There, she developed a child sexual abuse prevention project that the YMCA adopted nationally. That, in turn, led to her being invited to Ann Arbor in 1984 to work with the local therapeutic community to develop an integrated child sexual abuse family treatment program for Washtenaw County.

By then, White and Stanzler were married. They had first met when she was thirteen and he was thirty-eight. Stanzler, then a married doctor with four children, taught a Sunday school class called "What's Jewish about Rock." "He was a charismatic teacher, a songwriter—we taught each other songs," White remembers.

Stanzler and White didn't connect again until after she returned from her post-Antioch trip to Europe. By then he was divorced and living in the same apartment complex as White's mother. "He's a real cool guy," White, in matchmaking mode, told her mom. "He's more your type," replied her mother, who invited Stanzler to brunch. "We talked for hours," recalls White.

Stanzler and Michael Moore were tight.



Roger & Me taught White that she could use film and video to widen the audience for her message of social justice.

"We started to hang out—we became the Three Musketeers," recalls White. Then, somewhere along the way, she and Stanzler became a couple. "I feel like I've gotten wonderful love and support," White says. "I've been busy taking care of the world, and he has nurtured me." Since 1986 White and Stanzler have rented the second floor of a mid-1800s Greek Revival house on East Washington, furnished with primitive antiques and with quirky art acquired during their travels.

White has been a therapist for twenty-five years, and she still has a part-time practice. Always interested more in social than in individual change, she loves the work but admits to sometimes feeling ambivalent about it. "It isn't affordable for everyone—it is like bailing out the ocean with a teaspoon while it is raining." But she also figures that "transforming the individual is part of transforming the world."

Moore, who is still a friend of White and Stanzler, was in Ann Arbor for a talk recently and came to dinner at their home. "I'm very proud of *Roger & Me*... of the ground that it broke," says White. "It was out of love for Flint that we made the film."

Roger & Me made Moore a wealthy celebrity. The money flowed to Moore after Warner Brothers purchased the rights to the movie, which had been financed through a 501(c)3 nonprofit set up to get the movie made. Did White and Stanzler make any money on the film?

White's reply is rueful. "I have learned through living," she says, "that business and friendship are two different things."

—Penny Schreiber

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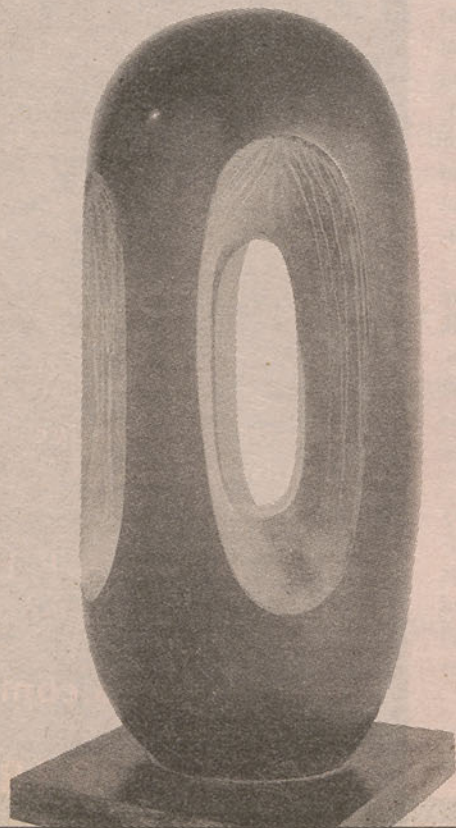
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left: Barbara Hepworth, *Elegy III*, 1966, bronze with color, The Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation for Art. Photo courtesy Pace Wildenstein. right: Vishnu, Northeast India, Bengal or Bihar, 10th century, black stone, Museum purchase made possible by the Margaret Watson Parker Art Collection Fund. 2003/1.385



Janice Hendrick

Fish car lady

Three years ago, Janice Hendrick bought a 1988 Mercury Grand Marquis, covered it with painted fish swimming in a mottled-blue ocean, and glued over 500 plastic fish and other sea creatures to the exterior. Her brother, David Hendrick, bolted aluminum fins to the roof and trunk, and rigged up a pump that squirts water from the mouths of sharks mounted on the roof. Every weekday

car," "You made my day") on the windshield. Hendrick's fans include her daughters, Katie, fifteen, and Erin, eleven. Partly because she didn't want her kids to be teased, she recruited Katie's entire Girl Scout troop to help paint the car. "Katie and Erin," she says with satisfaction, "both say someday when they get a car, for sure they'll have an art car." Hendrick's husband, acoustical engineer Gordon Ebbitt, is also supportive. "He's just very cool," she says. "I guess he married me because he likes who I am, so it doesn't matter what I do . . . though he will not let me turn our minivan into a pirate car."

But every once in a while, the fish car strikes a sour note. When it broke down in Jackson, she pulled into a gas station and asked the attendant to fix it. "He said,



Hendrick says she's trying "to have fun and to do art that's visible. Art doesn't have to be something very serious and meaningful. Art can be something really silly."

morning Hendrick drives the "fish car" to Bryant Elementary, where she teaches art. And for fun, she might even squirt the car ahead of her.

That's the point, says Hendrick. "My primary reason is to have fun and to do art that's visible. Art doesn't have to be something very serious and meaningful. Art can be something really silly."

With her large blue eyes, angular features, and layered brown hair, Hendrick looks younger than her forty-six years. She definitely acts younger. "This is my car phone," she deadpans from the driver's seat, holding up an old telephone receiver with a severed cord.

As she drives around Ann Arbor, almost everyone gives the fish car a look of curious amazement, and then smiles. Hendrick morphs into a mischievous kid as she pushes the buttons causing the sharks to spew arcs of water. Mardi Gras beads hang from the rearview mirror, and more fish are glued to the dash, along with a small gilt-framed photo of Don Knotts, who played a man who turned into a fish in the 1964 film *The Incredible Mr. Limpet*.

When the fish car is parked, Hendrick sometimes returns to find notes ("Cool

"I don't think that car's funny," Hendrick recalls. "It's weird, and so are you to make a car like that, and get it off my lot." I thought he was kidding . . . but he was angry. . . . He said he didn't want people to think he would do work on such a car."

Hendrick figures the man just couldn't "relate" to her car. And she admits that her motives are subversive. She loves her fish car partly because it punctures the seriousness with which Americans regard their vehicles. "Such status and such importance is placed on cars," she says. "So much time is spent on just maintenance of the visual aspect of your car, but don't you dare alter it to make it anything like your own self. To me it seems so wacky. It's sort of fun to poke fun at the system."

When her fish car dies—Hendrick gives it about three months—she'll buy another used car, preferably with better mileage and lower emissions, to transform into her pirate car. She wants her brother to hook up a retractable plank on the roof. That way, she'll be able to push a button and yell "Walk the plank!" to onlookers. "I think it would be so hilarious," she says.

—Susan Todoroff

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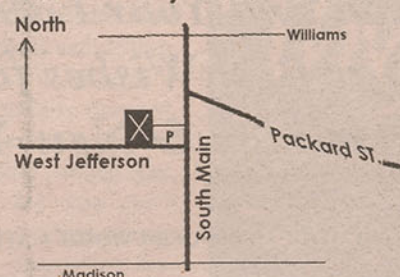
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Waiting for the light

Motorized madness

Last summer, I saved a man's life. He'd darted across three lanes of angry 5 p.m. Stadium Boulevard traffic, waving his hands like a little lost bird and miraculously eluding forty-five-mile-an-hour SUVs by mere inches. His face wore a frozen smile, and his head tilted oddly to the left and back. He was a child in a grown man's body.

When I slowed to a stop next to him, he was laughing and shuffling his feet in the left-turn lane. I reached my hand out to him. "Hi there," I said in my best mommy voice. "Whatcha doin'?"

"Crossing the street," he told the pavement.

"Yes, you are crossing the street," I said. "Stay here by me. Stay right here."

He was about twelve inches from the whizzing cars in the oncoming lane.

"Do you see the light?" I asked, pointing to the crosswalk. He looked around, rocking. I kept pointing. "See the light?" He did see it.

"The light," he laughed.

"What color is it?" He looked again.

"Orange."

"Yes, it is orange. When can we walk?"

He was getting excited, dancing a bit more.

"Stay right here. Stay right by me. We can go in just a little bit." Some jerk in a truck drove around me, yelling, "Christ, lady, move it."

The traffic light changed. Now cars turning left were moving into his path. As I considered leaving my kids in the car and getting out, I saw a woman watching from a car stopped at the light. The look on her face... she was mortified. Another guy drove by, shouting "Get out of the road!" at Happy Man.

I kept singing. "Stay right here, buddy. Look at the light. It's gonna change..." He laughed and rocked.

The cars stopped. The walking figure in white appeared on the crosswalk sign. Happy Man clapped. "It's white." He looked right at me. Thick glasses and a gray stubby beard. "White."

"Yes, it is white. Now go right to the sidewalk." He flitted away, flapping his fingers against his palms.

The horrified woman gave me a thumbs-up as she made her right turn. Another woman pushing a stroller past the intersection had been watching with a similarly shocked expression. "Thank you," she said, putting her hand to her heart. "Thank you."

I rolled up the window and started to cry.

Later, at home, I told my husband about Happy Man. When I got to the part about the people who shouted as they drove by, he asked, "Didn't anybody yell, 'What's wrong with you? Are ya retarded?'" 'Cause that's what I would have done."

Brian's wacky distortion of the obvious can usually make me laugh. Like when I miscarried and he told me in the hospital, "I bet there are lots of babies here right now. I could go get one for us."

This time it didn't work. I couldn't laugh. For some time now, I've been marveling at and worrying about the behavior of people whom I can describe only as Stark Raving Mad Lunatics. Usually, it seems, I run into them when they are driving.

SRMLs are the ones who pound on their horns if you don't drive like a bat out of hell the very first nanosecond after a light changes. They're also the ones who fly into a rage at any driver tactless enough to drive the legal speed limit. I've had people pass me on the shoulder, with horn ablaring and middle finger a-waving, for that offense.

Last spring, my two youngest children and I were very nearly plowed over by a big, fat, red-faced guy in a work truck who was making an illegal right turn. I had my eye on him as we crossed the street. He glared at me and floored it, defiantly staring at us as he very nearly ran us down. If I hadn't grabbed Sammy and stopped quickly, he would have run us over. Fifty feet beyond, he screeched into Burger King.

What is happening to our society? I regularly pose this question to anyone who will listen. Think back to immediately after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Did I imagine it, or were people in general more considerate of each other in public? My recollection is that more eyes met mine. More smiles were bestowed upon this mother and her two small children holding up the line. Today, I better not hold up the line, or look out.

Recently I was in a parking lot in my van waiting (remember waiting?) for an elderly woman who was blocking my exit. She was waiting for the very first parking spot next to Sam's Club to open up. So together, we waited.

A young couple hopped into the SUV on my right. First, they roared their engine. Then they floored their vehicle, in reverse, and slammed on the brakes. Incredulous, I watched, not sure of what to do.

They both got out and started screaming at me. "What's the problem? Let us out!"

"Okay," I said. But when I turned to look behind me and back up, another minivan had started to back out of its spot and was now blocking my left side. The driver of that vehicle, a young blond, had gotten out of her car and was headed right for my door, waving her arms and yelling, "What are you doing? Move it! Move it!"

What I'm telling you actually occurred. I was just waiting for Grandma to get her up-right-next-to-the-building parking spot,

but you can't explain that to screaming maniacs. They're so impatient that they can't see what's going on around them. So I just said, "Okay, okay," until they stormed back to their cars.

Then I crept forward, forcing Grandma to move from her waiting spot. She rolled her window down

and peered out from under her straw hat. "Jesus, lady! What's wrong with you?" she rasped.

I've been asking myself that a lot lately. What is wrong with me? These nightmarish exchanges leave me devastated. I'm convinced I'm watching the decline of civilization—that my community is hurtling toward self-destruction. And all because people have forgotten how to wait—how to see each other.

Or is it just me? Am I a crybaby? A feminazi, activist crybaby who just doesn't understand that some people really, really need to get to Burger King? Should I just, as the vein-popping Fox News pundits say, "get over it"? And go buy an Excursion? And plow over anyone stupid enough to get in my way?

Until folks get nicer, or I get meaner, I figure I have only a few options:

Smile in the face of madness. Hold tightly to the hands of my children. And wait for the light.

—Charmie Gholson



For some time now, I've been marveling at and worrying about the behavior of people whom I can describe only as Stark Raving Mad Lunatics. Usually, it seems, I run into them when they are driving.

Randal Stegmeyer
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STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Area clears over 94 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

*** On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses—**in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

*** On days having even-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the street having odd-numbered street addresses—**in order to allow plows to clear the odd-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council

has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to \$500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk.

Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised August 2003

Fighting Factory



How a soft-spoken nurse-turned-farmer helped

blow the whistle on a new breed of giant agricultural polluters.

by Daniel Sturm

When Kathy Melmoth decided to quit her job as a Washtenaw County public health nurse and become a full-time farmer in 1990, she didn't realize that the career change would throw her into a battle against factory farming.

On a Saturday morning in late September, Melmoth, fifty-one, is selling perennials and winter squash at the Ann Arbor Farmers' Market. She's a quiet, thoughtful presence at stall 42 nine months of the year. Along with flowers and produce, her company, Recipe Gardens, sells garlic and holiday wreaths in season. Everything Melmoth brings to the market is grown or made by her and her husband, David, at their nursery near Hudson, Michigan, fifty miles south of their old hometown.

The Melmoths were drawn to the area by its clean air and water and by the rich diversity of animals and plants. They use minimal fertilizers and no chemicals, and have even turned a quarter of their eighty-acre property back into wetlands. Within hours of breaking up the underground tile that drained the land, Kathy saw ducks arriving. Every year since, she's counted more—along with frogs, turtles, butterflies, and even an occasional blue heron.

They had a vision of what country life was supposed to be. "We thought we could contribute to a rural community," she remembers. "We wanted to sell our products at the Ann Arbor Farmers' Market and then return and buy things locally. We wanted to be part of a local economy."

The Melmoths have done all those things. After years of hard work, Kathy says proudly, they're actually earning a living as full-time, taxpaying farmers. But since a factory dairy farm opened nearby three years ago, all that they've worked for has been in danger.

When they became farmers, Kathy had looked forward to work that would make her healthy and strong, and to spending much of her day outdoors. She never imagined that swarms of flies, an unbearable stench, and terrible headaches would trap her inside her farmhouse.

Recruiting polluters

In 2000 the Dutch-American Vreba-Hoff Dairy, LLC, built a factory farm roughly five miles south of the Melmoths' farm. Three thousand cows are confined there year round in giant barns. Known more bureaucratically as a "confined animal feeding operation" (CAFO), Vreba-Hoff 2 uses scrapers and huge quantities

of water to wash away the cows' feces and urine. The resulting sewage—60,000 gallons a day—pours into huge open pits on the property. Eventually the liquid manure is trucked, pumped, or sprayed onto the surrounding fields.

Even five miles away, says Kathy Melmoth, the stench is much worse than rotten eggs. "It smells like something dead. It reminds me of the smell when a septic system fails. That's untreated waste, and it's very, very foul."

When Melmoth told people at the Farmers' Market what was happening, she found that few knew anything about factory farms. "Most of the Ann Arbor customers I've talked to are surprised that we

even have factory farms in this state, and that growers on this market come from areas that have been impacted," she says.

In fact, Vreba-Hoff 2 is the owners' second 3,000-cow operation near Hudson. Other firms operate eight additional CAFOs in the area—and Vreba-Hoff is actively working to increase that number.

On its website, Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development advertises a recruitment program for farmers from the Netherlands and Canada who'd like to relocate to the United States. In addition to its own two operations in Hudson, the Dutch-American CAFO already has helped seven other agricultural factories set up dairy operations in Michigan. One attraction is the federal government's generous farm support program. In 1995–2002, Vreba-Hoff co-owner Stephen Vanderhoff collected over \$72,000 in dairy, corn, soybean, and wheat subsidies. During the same period, Char-Lin Farms, one of the biggest operations in Hudson, received more than \$2 million—\$1.3 million in federal crop supports and an additional \$800,000 from the state for farmland preservation.

According to Anne Woiwode, director of the Sierra Club's Mackinac Chapter, European and Canadian farmers also are attracted by Michigan's cheap land and lax environmental regulations.

"Because of water quality concerns, the Netherlands bought out many dairy operations and limited the size of others," noted Melmoth's friend Janet Kauffman in a 2002 essay for *Dissent* magazine. Kauffman, an EMU professor, found that hundreds of Dutch farmers had relocated in the United States, in such places as Texas, Idaho, Washington, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. In Hudson most of the CAFOs are Dutch operations, whose facilities are ten to fifty times larger than those the



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Fighting Factory Farms

continued

owners left behind in Europe.

Factory farms have been linked to serious environmental and health problems. *Escherichia coli* bacteria from cattle waste runoff have been blamed for disease outbreaks in New York and Canada. Systematic overuse of antibiotics has increased the number of antibiotic-resistant microbes, which in turn threaten humans who come in contact with contaminated waters. While the concentrated animal waste produced by factory farms is collecting in open-air lagoons or evaporating through sprays, it also emits gases, including toxic hydrogen sulfide and ammonia. And recent studies attribute an increase of sinusitis and hepatitis in the United States in part to water and food contaminated with livestock fecal materials.

Even five miles away, the Melmoths couldn't escape the smell of Vreba-Hoff 2. But things were much worse for their doctor, Leland Wolf, whose home was less than a quarter mile from the CAFO. Wolf told Kathy that ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and methane gas given off by CAFO sewage could cause severe headaches, chronic sinus infections, recurrent bronchitis, and lung burns. Fearing that Vreba-Hoff's emissions would worsen his own daughter's asthma, Wolf moved away from the farmhouse where his family had lived for seven generations.

Alarmed by her doctor's decision and the smell in the air, the nurse who became a farmer found herself drawn back into the field of public health. Melmoth helped organize the Environmentally Concerned Citizens of South Central Michigan (ECCSCM), a group of twenty small-scale farmers and area residents who were worried about water and air quality. Today, she finds herself immersed in a battle reminiscent of the one depicted in the film *Erin Brockovich*, whose protagonist takes on a large corporation when pollution causes residents of her community to become sick.

Melmoth, Janet Kauffman, and another ECCSCM member, Lynn Henning, educated themselves about water monitoring. Then they began to test drains, ditches, streams, and lakes for contamination; from factory farms, with the same methods used by government water-monitoring officials. In 2001 Anne Woiwode's Sierra Club chapter gave them a \$7,000 grant to fund ECCSCM, pay for monitoring expenses, and assist with further training.

Liquid manure spreads quickly through Michigan's water, because much of the state used to be woodland swamps. In order to farm the swamps, early settlers needed not only to clear the trees but also to drain the water, through a complex system of trenches and buried clay tiles like the ones the Melmoths broke up. Liquid pooling on the surface quickly drains through this underground tile system—today made mostly of plastic—and flows directly into nearby streams.

After one dumping, the women measured the number of *E. coli* bacteria in a county drain at 1.34 million colonies per 100 milliliters—more than 1,000 times the legal maximum for partial body contact. It's just one of more than fifty cases of illegal discharges they've documented at eleven dairy operations in the Hudson area. (The full findings are posted on their website, nocafos.org.)

The health effects of contamination can be immediate, and can include neuro-behavioral dysfunctions.

Melmoth remembers the day in March 2003 when liquid manure Vreba-Hoff applied onto frozen ground ended up in a tributary of the St. Joseph River. The smell "made you nauseous right away," she remembers. She became so angry that she stopped her work at the greenhouse and painted a sign, which she attached to her truck, that read "Stop cow shit."

Describing herself as a "rational" person ("I'm a nurse"), Melmoth was surprised by the intensity of her reaction—until she learned that hydrogen sulfide gas not only can cause flulike symptoms but also can trigger anger attacks.

Manure madness

Lynn Henning's father-in-law and mother-in-law, Gerald and Cecilia Henning, live less than 100 feet from the 700-cow Hartland Farms CAFO.

Last April, both were diagnosed with hydrogen sulfide poisoning by Dr. Kaye Kilburn, a professor of medicine at the University of Southern California. Kilburn wrote that Cecilia Henning had "many blind spots in her vision fields, color vision, abnormal balance with eyes open and with eyes closed, and greatly lengthened simple and choice reaction times." Her husband "has many blind spots, abnormal balance with eyes open, prolonged reaction time, slow blink reflex and grip strength." Kilburn concluded that "both Hennings show losses of functions that are characteristic of brains damaged by hydrogen sulfide. They are like workers exposed in oil or natural gas fields."

For more than two years, Gerald Henning called the Michigan Department of Agriculture hotline to complain about manure pollution near his farm, a terrible

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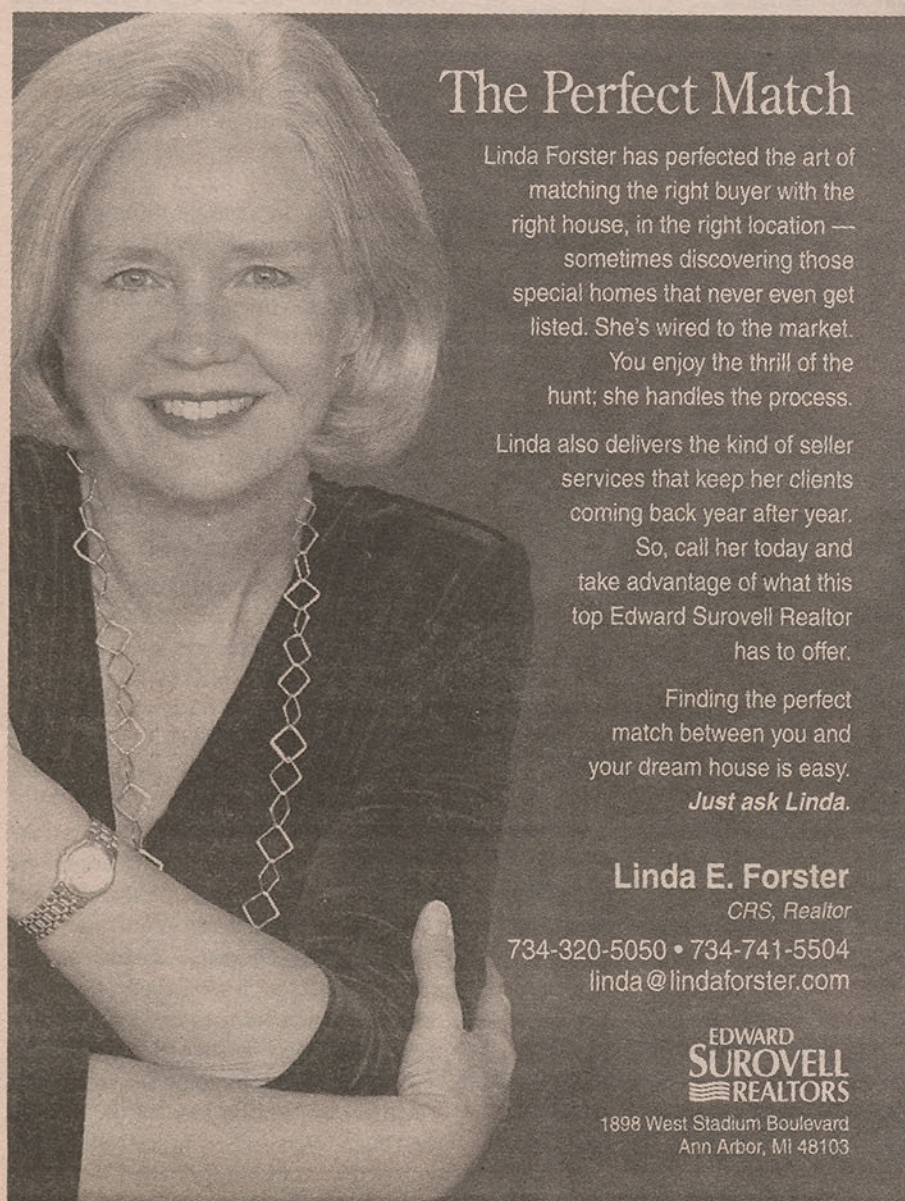
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smell, and a problem with flies. In an ironic twist, his complaint finally drew public attention only after the elderly farmer was prosecuted for cursing in a telephone conversation with a public official—not because of the abnormal level of pollution or the couple's own health problems.

Melmoth said that after hearing Henning's story she took a closer look at the statistical map she and the other two women had created to document the spreading of liquid manure. "This winter it occurred to me how often Hartland Farms spreads next to Henning's property," she says. "One wouldn't even need to have neurological damage to make the kinds of calls he made, after watching his wife suffer."

Between 2000 and 2002, Kauffman, Melmoth reported twenty-six illegal discharges of manure to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. But under governor John Engler, the department did not press charges against any of the polluting factory farms.

Michigan has 106 factory farms housing more than 1,000 "animal units" (714 cows equal 1,000 units). Yet the state has no mandatory permit system for water discharges, no inspection of manure lagoons, and no requirements for manure management. CAFOs do not even need building permits—as agricultural facilities they are exempt from such regulations. The milking machinery is inspected, but there is no regulation of the tail-end systems.

Anne Woiwode of the Sierra Club recalls a more progressive time during the 1980s, when Michigan actually enforced regulations and shut down some polluting agricultural operations. But piece by piece, she said, the Engler administration dismantled all of those regulations. Now the Michigan Air Quality Act specifically exempts any agricultural odors unless the state agriculture department specifically charges an operation with violating its "best practice guidelines," under Michi-

gan's 1981 Right to Farm Act.

CAFO opponents suffered a heavy blow in 1999, when the Right to Farm Act was amended to prohibit local units of government from regulating *any* agricultural activities. CAFOs could henceforth be built wherever the owners wanted them, regardless of who lived nearby.

The Sierra Club increased its pressure on the Engler administration by filing a petition with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, asking that the state's authority to run the clean water program be taken away. In 2001, Woiwode says, Michigan finally agreed to implement

federal water-discharge permit requirements—but only for CAFOs that operate more than 1,000 animal units and have been found in violation of the Clean Water Act. Since the state has no monitoring system to identify such violations, it was an almost meaningless concession.

Finally, a fresh wind came with the election of governor Jennifer Granholm. According to Woiwode, during the winter of 2002–2003, just as the new administration of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality was settling in, the Hudson area's ten dairy operations were putting out huge amounts of animal waste.

Discharging animal waste onto snow-covered soil is common in Michigan. But it's illegal in some European countries, and it's dangerous, because frozen ground greatly increases the amounts of fecal bacteria, nitrogen, and phosphorus that enter streams through snowmelt. In a four-month period, Melmoth and friends documented eighteen discharges of milk waste, liquid manure, and contaminated storm water—four times the average frequency of such discharges since CAFOs moved into the Hudson area.

The Sierra Club's Woiwode calls it

Fearing that Vreba-Hoff's emissions would worsen his daughter's asthma, the Melmoths' doctor moved away from the farmhouse where his family had lived for **SEVEN GENERATIONS.**

"Most of the Ann Arbor customers I've talked to are surprised that we even have **FACTORY FARMS** in this state," Melmoth says.

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Fighting Factory Farms

continued

"one of the worst ecological disasters caused by CAFOs in the country. These farms had too many facilities, too many animals, too little land, and improper handling of the waste. And when there was a combination of very cold winter weather and a sudden melt, this left waste all over the place, and people were literally horrified."

Discharging animal waste
onto snow-covered soil is
common in Michigan. But it's

ILLEGAL

in some European countries, and it's

DANGEROUS.

Department of Environmental Quality v. Vreba-Hoff Dairy

The state finally moved against polluting CAFOs this past September, when MDEQ filed a civil lawsuit in Ingham County against Vreba-Hoff Dairy. The suit charges the company with unlawfully discharging agricultural wastes from its facilities into state-owned waters. The suit was based on an MDEQ investigation, which was triggered by the data gathered by the Hudson volunteers last spring.

"While Michigan rightly prides itself on a rich agricultural heritage, operations such as these that flout the law and pose an environmental threat to the waters of this state give all of agriculture a black eye," said MDEQ's new director, Steven Chester, in a press release. "The citizens of this state should not be subjected to the pollution generated by factory farms, and the DEQ will do what's

necessary to pursue these violators."

Department spokeswoman Patricia Spitzley told the Observer that MDEQ is asking Vreba-Hoff to reduce the number of cows at its Hudson facilities, and will prohibit any expansion until the problems are resolved. MDEQ is also demanding that Vreba-Hoff construct a wastewater treatment system, apply for a groundwater permit, and notify the state department of any additional discharges—which will be subject to fines of up to \$25,000 a day.

Vreba-Hoff spokesperson Cecilia Conway admits that there have been six incidents of "unplanned" manure discharges in the past. She says, however, that the farm has greatly stepped up its monitoring efforts to prevent such discharges from happening again.

Conway, whose parents immigrated to the United States from the Netherlands in 1960, says that Michigan's lawsuit is "more a politically oriented lawsuit than anything else." She points out that her entire family, the Vanderhoffs, including six siblings, live in the vicinity of their own farms. "We drink the same water. So why would we intentionally do something to our own families and children?"

The suit has drawn a much more enthusiastic response from the activists fighting factory farms.

"I'm pleasantly surprised about how far they took this case," says Anne Woiwode. "We have seen under the leadership of Steve Chester, the new MDEQ director, a dramatic change in the direction of the state on environmental issues. This lawsuit is precedent-setting."

"It's hard to absorb it," admits Melmoth. "If you sat me down in front of the DEQ director and asked me what I



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MDEQ's lawsuit against Vreba-Hoff.

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wanted, everything in this civil order would be it."

The greenhouse farmer adds, "I never thought that they would take us that seriously. It's like a David against Goliath."

Melmoth says she feels hopeful that the Granholm administration's intervention will finally turn the tide in the CAFO battle. When her own current water-monitoring project ends this December, she expects to continue it in some form—but she also wants to take her commitment one step farther. The former Ann Arbor nurse wants to begin monitoring air pollution from the CAFOs, as well as tracking medical symptoms that might be caused by manure pollution.

She decided this one day in late August, after watching Hartland Farms employees spread liquid manure until late in the evening. Temperatures were in the high eighties, and clouds of dust and stench hung suspended in the air. "That's when it struck me that we probably had an air inversion," she says. On August 31 she noticed an outbreak of flies, which continued to be a problem for weeks afterward. DEQ inspectors weren't sure whether to attribute the outbreak to daily liquid manure applications on a hay field near Bakerlads Dairy, or to inadequately buried dead animals at Hartland Farms.

After recently being diagnosed with a serious lung disease, one woman who lives near Hartland Farms told Lynn Henning that she could no longer sleep at night and had to keep her windows closed. She also had diarrhea, and her well tested positive for coliform bacteria. The *E. coli* levels returned to normal before anyone could determine whether the CAFO was the cause.

Melmoth says that she has developed a cough herself and that other neighbors complain about headaches and burning eyes. Without air monitoring data, "I can't accuse these guys of causing it," she admits. "All I know is that respiratory diseases can be greatly exacerbated by these fumes."

Melmoth wants to continue what she's begun, because she loves the way of life she's discovered since moving to the countryside. After years of hard work, she's proud that she's making a living as a farmer—especially since, unlike the dairy CAFOs, her plant and produce business has succeeded without any subsidies.

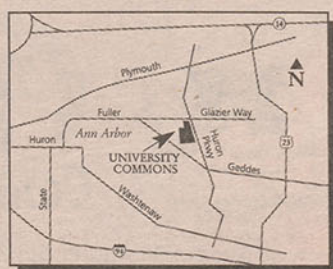
When Melmoth left Ann Arbor to live in Hillsdale County, she moved to a rural community with low population density, no major expressway, and little development. People were friendly to their neighbors, she says, even to the newcomers who came with their giant manure lagoons. A subtle rural code dictated that one should not speak badly about neighbors.

That last rule, at least, has since changed. "I have seen a slow realization among residents that this isn't right," says Melmoth. While the state is finally beginning to address the water issues, she says, it's done little to address CAFOs' impact on public health. "As a registered nurse, I can only refer people to a doctor," she says. "My goal is to make the government and the public aware that people are suffering."

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Poisoned Lives

When Moses Campbell was thirteen, he broke into the homes of two neighbors on the east side of Ann Arbor. Each time, he stole

the mother's underwear, spread it around the house, and lit small fires nearby.

Although the damage was minor, his mother, Susan Campbell, was shocked and frightened. Up until then, she says, her son "had never done anything wrong."

Not that Moses' life had been easy. Born in Detroit in 1978, he was adopted by the Campbells at age three and a half, after he was featured in the *Detroit Free Press* column "A Child Is Waiting." Susan and her husband were aware that his parents were developmentally disabled and that Moses himself had mild cerebral palsy and developmental delays. They did not know that his mother had drunk enough alcohol during her pregnancy to damage his brain permanently.

At age eighteen, Moses set another fire and was jailed for six months. While in jail, he was diagnosed with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS).

FAS was first identified in 1973 by University of Washington researcher David Smith and student Kenneth Jones, who'd been studying birth defects among children with exposure to alcohol in utero. They defined three diagnostic criteria for the full syndrome: slow prenatal or postnatal growth; a characteristic face with small eye slits, a short upturned nose, and a flattened midface; and central nervous system damage.

About one child in 500 is born with FAS. Additionally, about one child in 100 children is born without the facial features but with some degree of "fetal alcohol effects" (FAE). FAE children appear physically normal but have hidden damage to their nervous systems. Fetal alcohol exposure is now considered to be the leading preventable cause of mental retardation.

Alcohol is a very potent neurotoxin; even small quantities can have devastating consequences. Depending on how much the mother was drinking and what organs were developing at the time, every part of the growing fetus is at risk.

You can't "say that this many drinks causes this kind of effect and that many drinks causes that kind of effect," says Barb Wybrecht, cofounder of the U-M's FAS clinic



Local families struggle with the devastation of fetal alcohol syndrome.

by Yma A. Johnson

and parent of an adopted child with the syndrome. "It doesn't work that way. There are some babies who miss the bullet."

Moses did not miss the bullet.

When Moses arrived at the Campbells', Susan recalls, "he couldn't talk. He had maybe ten words." They were fortunate that his delayed development had already been diagnosed—at least Moses was able to get some support services right away.

Unlike many FAS children, Moses was always popular and friendly—in fact, too friendly. At age five the Campbells took him to be assessed by a psychiatrist.

"He never should have come with me the way he did," the doctor warned them afterward. "I'm a complete stranger to him, and he just jumped right up and put his hand in mine. He's too trusting."

Susan was taken aback—she had never thought about this lovable behavior as a problem. But Moses was so trusting because he had no sense of boundaries.

As a youngster he would walk into strangers' houses. Punished for entering one home, he would promptly enter another. Asked why, he would explain that no one had told him not to go into *that* house. "He just didn't have that sense that a stranger is a stranger," Susan recalls. "He never got that."

Severely impaired judgment and an inability to learn from consequences are common among FAS/FAE children. "When he started school it became apparent that he couldn't focus at all," says Susan. Like many other alcohol-damaged children, he found the bright lights, noise, and activity of a normal elementary classroom overwhelming.

Moses was moved into a form of special education called a self-contained classroom. "He did much better as long as he had a lot of structure and small groups," Susan says. Working in a three-sided carrel and wearing noise-blocking headphones, Moses finally was able to concentrate. "He loved school," Susan remembers. "He began to learn his colors, his letters. It was just amazing, the change."

His IQ tested in the mid-seventies, putting him in the category "educable mentally impaired." But "he had a way with people," Susan recalls. "Once he met you, he never forgot a person. He was very charming and outgoing, very affectionate and loving. But then in other areas he had a great deal of trouble—paying attention, following directions, understanding what was said to him, comprehending things, staying seated."

When Moses was six, Susan sent him to get a diaper for her newborn baby. Five minutes later he asked, "What am I supposed to be getting?"

"A diaper," she replied.

After another five minutes, Moses returned with a shirt.

Sometimes he would be able to function in a relatively

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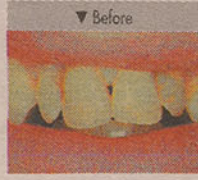
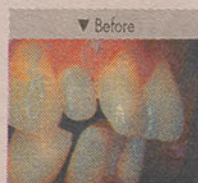
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Poisoned Lives continued

normal way. At other times, his brain would seem to short-circuit, particularly under stress like fatigue, cold, or hunger.

"He would go out in the cold without gloves, and people would call me and say, 'We have your child at our house. We found him walking without gloves, crying, and we brought him in. His hands are numb,'" Susan says. "He wouldn't realize how cold he was until it got too late. He would have earaches so bad his eardrum would rupture, and he wouldn't tell us until right at that point. He would be in bed, sobbing. He wouldn't even come down and tell us."

Susan described Moses' symptoms to various health care professionals. None recognized his FAS. At age eleven, however, he was diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and was put on Ritalin.

Moses responded well to the medication. His teacher called to say she couldn't believe this was the same child. Off came the headphones, and Moses emerged from his cubby. Able to absorb and filter information more normally, he transferred to Clague Middle School.

Then, at thirteen, Moses began setting his bizarre fires. A mental health assessment concluded that his behavior wasn't malicious or sociopathic but an "impulse disorder." Moses' doctors switched him from Ritalin to an antidepressant, imipramine, which seemed to help.

With supportive and understanding teachers, Moses continued to progress academically. In middle school he had a girlfriend who was severely dyslexic. He was able to read fluently but couldn't understand the content. She couldn't read, but she could understand. He would read things to her, and she would tell him what they meant.

Moses moved on to Huron High, held a job at Meijer for two years, and was even in a play at Performance Network. Then, "at eighteen, he began to go on and off the imipramine," recalls Susan. "At this point, I think, he began drinking. He began to smoke cigarettes. Very quickly he started to really fall apart. We noticed strange behavior."

Moses became depressed and began to sleep with a butcher knife under his pillow. One day his mother found him walking up and down the street carrying it. When she asked why, she says, Moses told her "he was carrying the knife in case a child had a string that was caught around her neck and needed him to cut it."

It appeared he was thinking about a tragic accident a few years earlier, when a child was strangled after the drawstring from her hood caught on a slide. Even so, Susan recalls, "it was very scary, and we couldn't stop it, because we couldn't get him to take the imipramine."

"I called the police and said, 'Some-

thing is wrong with my son. This isn't normal. He has a history of fire setting, and I'm afraid. I don't think the neighborhood is safe from him. Would you please take him to the hospital?"

But Moses wouldn't go voluntarily, and the police explained that while his behavior was strange, it wasn't strange enough for him to be hospitalized against his will.

Three days later Moses used gasoline to light a fire at a neighbor's home. The residents were out of town, and if they hadn't had fire-retardant carpeting, the blaze would have been massive.

Moses himself called 911 to report the fire. Questioned by police, he denied responsibility—but the next day he disappeared with a stranger and resurfaced in another city. He approached a police officer to say that he was lost—and to admit he'd set the fire.

Moses was tried and sentenced to six months in the Washtenaw County Jail. At his mother's request, Barb Wybrecht visited him there for an FAS assessment. Wybrecht finally made sense of Moses' peculiar web of symptoms.

The jail staff was very cooperative, and his mother was able to get him back on imipramine. A couple of times she had him put in solitary confinement. He didn't like it, but she felt it was necessary for his own protection. "I knew people could take advantage," Susan explains. Even at age eighteen, she says, her son was so naive and impressionable that "he would do anything anyone asked him to do."

"He still believed in Santa. The saddest thing was the Christmas before he went to jail, he was still leaving cookies and letters for Santa."

Michael Dorris's 1989 book *The Broken Cord* is the best-known popular treatment of FAS. An eloquent and depressing chronicle of Dorris' struggles with his adopted son "Adam," the book also details the virulent destruction wrought by alcohol in some Native American communities, particularly among the Lakota Sioux.

Adam suffered from seizures, severe language problems, and brain damage so pervasive that he never learned to cross streets safely. Not long after the book was published, at age twenty-three, he was struck by a car and killed.

Many parents of FAS/FAE children, and the professionals who deal with them, were troubled by *The Broken Cord*. Some parents, mistakenly assuming Adam's extreme case was typical, were so terrified they tried to return their adopted children. The picture was further clouded in 1997, when Dorris committed suicide after being accused of physically or sexually abusing four of his other children. After his death,

Dorris's estranged wife, author Louise Erdrich, described his history of suicide attempts, alcoholism, and violent outbursts.

Nonetheless, Dorris's book helped bring home the reality of fetal alcohol poisoning. Even after FAS was medically defined in 1973, many professionals had been slow to recognize the problem. "We had at least five or six high-quality therapy people tell us the different ways we were failing in our parental duties," recalls Eric Anderson.* Anderson and his wife, Marilyn, adopted a Sioux child in 1968, three years before Dorris adopted Adam.

Scott was less than ten months old when he came from South Dakota to

"He still believed in Santa. The saddest thing was the Christmas before he went to jail, he was still leaving cookies and letters for Santa."

Michigan. The adoption was part of a coordinated effort between social workers in Michigan and their counterparts in South Dakota to move Native American children from the social services system there into good homes in other states. According to Eric, every child he's aware of from that program would eventually be identified as FAS or FAE.

It doesn't appear that the children were given up for adoption simply because the birth parents recognized their disabilities. Instead, the adoption of so many FAS/FAE kids reflected how widespread alcoholism was in the Native American population—and how vulnerable alcoholic women are to unplanned pregnancies.

The Andersons were initially told that Scott's mother gave him up for adoption when he was a month old. Only later, Eric says, did they learn that "that decision was prompted by Children's Protective Services' taking him away from her."

Because Scott was the Andersons' first child, they did not always recognize how unusual his behavior was for an infant. When he was around two and a half years old, Marilyn says, "we discovered that he was wandering around the house in the middle of the night. That could have been

* Names of family members have been changed.

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Poisoned Lives continued

one of our first clues, but we didn't know what it meant. The pediatrician didn't know what it meant."

As a young child, Scott had trouble straightening up his room. "On a beautiful summer's day, when he could have gone out and played when he finished straightening up his room, he would spend the entire weekend straightening up his room," says Eric. "He never got anything done, and it didn't seem to bother him."

Marilyn was frustrated; to her, Scott seemed to be disobeying willfully. This is a common assumption about FAE kids, because their performance can be very inconsistent—one day they might be able to recite their alphabet, the next day not.

Scott was quiet and kept to himself in early elementary school. In fourth grade, however, a teacher had him tested for learning disabilities. Marilyn was furious, but the results showed Scott to have a "normal" IQ. (If he had achieved the same score today, he probably would have been diagnosed as learning disabled.)

When Scott was nine, his birth mother died. A letter from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, notifying him of a stipend from

but we can't quite figure out why." He repeated the eighth grade twice and finished with exactly the same scores in every class. "The second time they passed him," his father says. "You can't keep people in the eighth grade forever."

Like Moses, Scott had an extremely high threshold for pain—a symptom of central nervous system damage. He'd perform daredevil stunts on his bike, hitting cars and trees. Once he showed up at his parents' door with his arm broken in two places—his father recalls that it looked as though he had an "extra joint." "If I had broken my arm like that and looked at it, I would probably faint," says Eric.

As a teenager Scott would ride his skateboard on his back, headfirst—"so you don't know where you're going, you can't see anything, and your head is the first thing that's going to hit," summarizes Eric. Such behavior by FAS/FAE kids may look suicidal, but it actually stems from a profound inability to understand consequences. Recalls Eric, "I spent my life saying, 'What do I have to tell him not to do today?'"

"These are extremely difficult children

"You get to the point where you dread to see police cars, people in blue uniforms, and have the phone ring."

her grazing rights, also listed the names of several relatives. The Andersons connected with Scott's half sister, who had been adopted in Grand Rapids. Afterward, Scott's aunt contacted the Andersons. She told them Scott's mother had had a habit of drinking about a quart of liquor a day.

Although it was obvious Scott needed help, the Andersons found it hard to focus on his problems, because they had their hands full with his younger sister, Sarah. Sarah, who also was adopted, "really provided a smoke screen for Scott, because she was very abrasive," recalls Eric. "He was very easy to get along with."

Scott started using drugs in middle school, but "it took us a long time to figure this out," admits Marilyn. "That's unfortunately pretty typical. Some people see it as self-medication because of frustration, not fitting in, not being able to do what's expected."

In seventh grade Scott was diagnosed as "emotionally impaired," a then-popular term that Eric describes as "the garbage can for 'This kid probably needs services,

to parent," says Marie Heys of the U-M FAS clinic. "It is never surprising when there are behavioral problems."

When Scott was thirteen, Eric found a syringe, and Scott was sent to drug rehab. At fourteen he was caught stealing a motorcycle and ordered committed to another substance abuse treatment center. Then came charges for shoplifting and joyriding.

"You get to the point where you dread to see police cars, people in blue uniforms, and have the phone ring," says Eric. Scott passed through a series of treatment centers, incarcerations, and unstable living situations. He fathered four kids (including one set of twins) by three women in eight months.

Over the years, Scott was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder, depression with psychotic features possibly induced by crack cocaine use, and borderline personality disorder. "It's fairly typical to collect long lists of diagnoses, because they present differently on different days," says Eric.

Marilyn had done some volunteer work

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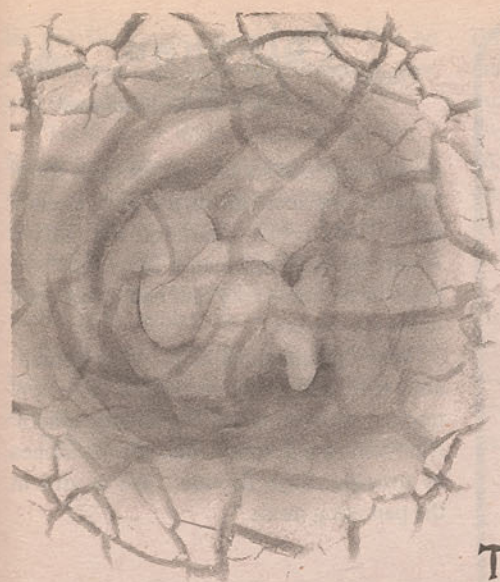


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with Barb Wybrecht. When Marilyn described some of the problems she was having with Scott, Wybrecht suggested an FAS evaluation. Five years ago, U-M physician Sheila Gahagan diagnosed Scott with "nonprogressive brain damage, alcohol exposed."

With help from the Association for Community Advocacy, Scott's parents were able to get him on Social Security disability and find him a subsidized apartment. He did all right for a while, but then the liquor bottles started to appear again. Marilyn began coming over weekly to clean the apartment. Fearing he would lose his housing, they finally hired someone to clean regularly.

Like Moses, Scott has a kindness and generosity coupled with a dangerous lack of discernment. He had been bringing homeless people to his parents' house on and off for years. Scott started a relationship with a young woman who was severely mentally ill and addicted to crack and alcohol. He moved her into his apartment.

"I could see that things were really going downhill for both of these kids," says Marilyn, who tried unsuccessfully to initiate a dialogue with the woman's caseworker. Four years ago, in an alcoholic blackout, Scott attacked his girlfriend. In March 2000 he was sentenced to forty to sixty months for assault with intent to commit rape. He's been in prison ever since.

Unlike the Campbells and the Andersons, Brenda and Ken Turner* knew that their daughter's birth mother was an alcoholic when they adopted Isabel in 1973. But they had no idea how serious the implications would be. "At the time, we didn't think about it for a minute," says Brenda.

The ninth of ten children born to a Native American mother, Isabel was three and a half years old when the Turners adopted her. Ken, a minister, and Brenda, an educator, were self-described "children of the sixties" committed to providing a home for an older, minority child.

Isabel was given up for adoption at birth, and the Turners' was her fourth home. It was immediately evident that she had some developmental delays, but given her history, they assumed it was trauma re-

lated and figured she would catch up. But there was also a cluster of other symptoms.

She couldn't label colors. Thinking she might be color blind, they took her to a pediatrician, who said she wasn't. "But in lots of other ways, she seemed—not precocious, certainly, but more or less in the normal range," recalls Brenda.

As is typical with FAS/FAE children, Isabel's problems really began to emerge when she hit

giving them verbally.

Isabel's high school in Washington valued children of varying abilities, enrolling everyone from the gifted to children with learning challenges. Isabel did well. Then, in her junior year, the Turners moved back to Michigan, where they enrolled her in a public school in Farmington Hills.

The biggest obstacle to her graduation was the math requirement. "This is someone who on a good day today cannot tell you what eight times seven is," Brenda says. "She can do some simple addition and subtraction, but she really can't do

The system assumes that prisoners can understand and avoid negative consequences—and like many other FAS/FAE kids, Moses couldn't.

school. She attended a Montessori kindergarten in Ann Arbor and repeated kindergarten after the Turners moved to Seattle. "In first grade, then, we really began to see problems, because she just couldn't read," says Brenda. Isabel also "had a lot of trouble socializing with peers, and missed social cues."

A psychologist who tested her was "totally mystified," Brenda says. A scatter pattern of spikes and dips yielded an IQ of 100—average. Isabel could remember some things but not others, and clearly had problems retrieving information. She could understand a concept like sunrise, but would forget a word like *breakfast*.

"If I would say, 'Go upstairs and pick up your shoes and come downstairs,'" says Brenda, "she'd get to the stairs and couldn't remember any of the things that I'd asked her to do."

The Turners' pediatrician put them in touch with FAS pioneer David Smith, who diagnosed Isabel's syndrome. In addition to small, close-set eyes and an atypical finger development pattern, "she had just matchstick arms and legs, painfully thin," says Brenda. "She wasn't unhealthy, but you would have noticed these just really skinny little legs, which is another marker."

Although the diagnosis explained the root of Isabel's problems, "they were still just doing the very earliest work, so nobody was able to give us advice on how to help her best," Brenda recalls. "So we just sort of bumbled along for all of her life."

Trying to find a successful educational setting, the Turners moved Isabel to a private school for children with learning disabilities, back to the public schools, then to a Catholic middle school, and then to a parochial high school. "We were always in schools' and teachers' faces," Brenda recalls. "I got to the place where every year I would just kind of prepare this handout." It detailed what teachers were likely to notice and offered suggestions, like writing assignments on the board instead of just

multiplication and division." Still, with incredible daily support from a teacher and with the use of a calculator, she was able to graduate.

"My strategy was to figure, 'It's real clear there are a whole lot of things she can't do—what *can* she do?'" Brenda recalls. "It was very clear from early on that art was something she could do."

The summer after high school, with Brenda paving the way, Isabel put together a portfolio and was accepted by the Center for Creative Studies (now the College for Creative Studies) in Detroit. She attended for a year and did fairly well. Because Isabel's Native American heritage was becoming increasingly important to her, she then transferred to the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she completed an associate's degree. Once again, getting around the math requirement presented problems up to the eleventh hour. "I was in their faces and kept trying to come up with alternatives, and eventually, one week before graduation, they said she passed. And who knows," says Brenda, laughing good-naturedly. "I think they were tired of hearing from me."

Then Isabel announced her desire to attend the University of Alaska at Fairbanks—a four-year college with a core curriculum including math and foreign language. "I'm thinking, 'We can't do this—this is just impossible,'" remembers Brenda. "But I'm an academic. I know how to read catalogs, and I know how to play with the system."

Isabel is Athabascan Indian, and her people's native language, Kaska, is disappearing. Knowing that a traditional foreign language course was beyond Isabel's grasp, Brenda "did some nosing around" and located a Kaska language expert in the Yukon who agreed to take Isabel on for a summer experiential course.

Brenda visited the university frequently and made good friends with Isabel's professors, who looked out for her. Isabel also

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Poisoned Lives *continued*

got tutoring and social support from Rural Student Services, an office that, Brenda says, "was really designed for Native American kids who came from little villages to the university and had never been in the city before."

With "phenomenal help," Isabel graduated with a teaching certificate. She now teaches art at an urban elementary school. But even at age thirty-four, she continues to struggle. Says Brenda, "We're still in the parenting mode."

Donna Sabourin heads Washtenaw County's Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS). Several years ago, Parents Supporting Parents, a network of families with alcohol-affected kids, asked Sabourin to attend one of their meetings. Founders Vern and Betty Soden, adoptive parents of an FAE child, have been instrumental in educating both the community and the local agencies about FAS/FAE.

"What we realized through the dialogue was that it wasn't that we were unwilling to provide the services," Sabourin recalls. "In some areas there's been a lot of progress made around recognizing and diagnosing this disorder—but as far as really knowing how best to help the person, there's still not a lot of information."

Two years ago, CSTS hosted the area's first FAS training conference. "A big part of the conference was parents who had really studied this on their own and gotten up on all the latest research, and then also had their own personal experience," Sabourin says. "The parents were actually teaching the professionals about the nature of the disorder and what they needed." Other advocacy groups joined CSTS in sponsoring follow-up training sessions last year and this past October.

But even with strong family and professional support, life will always be precarious for FAS/FAE kids. Moses Campbell is living proof of how quickly, and disastrously, things can go wrong.

Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, Moses had done well. Then, a few weeks of not taking his medication and a small amount of substance abuse locked him firmly into the criminal justice system.

After completing his jail sentence, Moses was released on probation and returned to high school. But "he was changed," recalls his mother, Susan. "Now he'd been in jail for six months, and he wasn't the same sweet kid. He was having more problems in school and talking about jail to these young mentally impaired kids that he was in school with."

He wasn't obeying his mother as readily anymore, either. As he reached the cusp of legal majority, she was losing control.

Counseling was a required part of Moses' probation. CSTS picked him up the first week and took him to therapy. The next week Moses was supposed to take the bus. He missed the appointment; he said

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he got lost trying to get there. But he missed the following appointment, too, and then disappeared for a week.

"He'd never done anything like this," Susan remembers. "I thought he might be dead." He reappeared just in time to check in with his probation officer, but then he missed yet another CSTS appointment. At that point the counselor flagged him for violating his probation.

Moses was sentenced to three to ten years in prison. That was seven years ago, and he's still behind bars.

Prisons operate on rigid, punishment-

But FAS expert Barb Wybrecht says that's unlikely. Wybrecht says that disabled inmates function better at higher security levels: because choices there are so limited, their lack of judgment doesn't come into play. But once they regain some freedom, the same problems that increased their security status resurface.

Barring another criminal charge, Moses will be released in 2006. But when he does get out, Susan says, "I don't know what we'll do with him. He set a fire right down the street. The neighbors are scared of him."

For any woman who can become pregnant, advocates say, the rule for preventing FAS is starkly simple: zero alcohol equals zero risk.

based rules. The system assumes that prisoners can understand and avoid negative consequences—and like many other FAS/FAE kids, Moses couldn't. Once incarcerated, he climbed rapidly through the security levels.

Another inmate, taking advantage of his naivete, asked him to steal a radio. He was supposed to go into the owner's cell, wrap the radio in a shirt, and leave. Moses forgot the shirt and walked out with the radio in plain sight.

The prison stopped giving him imipramine because he was holding it in his cheek and trading it for cigarettes. He wrote an inappropriate letter to a caseworker who had been nice to him. "He confuses sexual [and] nonsexual," Susan says. "When he likes someone, particularly a woman, he has no discernment."

The caseworker brought charges. "He got bumped up a couple of [security] levels for that," says Susan sadly. "She felt very threatened."

Susan admits that she can easily understand why the woman was so alarmed. But it distresses her that the prison system makes no allowance for Moses' disability. "They don't seem to have any awareness of that. They just keep having the same expectations of him that they do for everyone else, and he can't meet those."

After participating in a riot at Ionia Prison, Moses was sent to the Alger Maximum Correctional Facility in the Upper Peninsula. He has been in and out of solitary confinement, sometimes for months, and Susan hasn't seen him in three years. A former Alger inmate told a friend of Susan's that Moses was sexually involved with other prisoners. "I'm not sure if it was consensual or if he was raped," she says.

Susan is encouraged that over the last ten months Moses hasn't gotten into any new trouble. She hopes that he may finally be learning how to work with the system.

Before Moses went to prison, Susan asked his caseworker whether he could be placed somewhere if he didn't return home. Her answer, Susan says, was "If you put him out, he will be living homeless in downtown Ann Arbor. That's where our clients end up."

Not all FAS/FAE kids face such a bleak future, especially those who are identified early. Recent research in animals has confirmed that training can compensate for some alcohol-induced deficits. But even with prompt diagnosis and help, the brain damage is permanent. And even though Smith and Jones did their pioneering work thirty years ago, the full scope of the problem may still not be known. For instance, experts now suspect that a significant number of children diagnosed as ADHD and learning disabled are actually fetal alcohol affected.

With limited prospects for treatment, prevention is a top priority. To reach at-risk moms, the U-M's FAS diagnostic clinic holds lectures at the Washtenaw County Jail. Since FAS/FAE cuts across races and socioeconomic levels, Parents Supporting Parents also does presentations at local high schools.

Some advocates say that women of childbearing years should not drink at all. They note that the characteristic FAS facial features result from damage done during the first month of pregnancy—when most women are unaware that they have conceived.

Although alcoholics remain at greatest risk, social drinkers, too, can have affected children. Studies have found subtle but significant impairments in children born to women who consume as few as one and a half drinks per week. For any woman who can become pregnant, advocates say, the rule for preventing FAS is starkly simple: zero alcohol equals zero risk.

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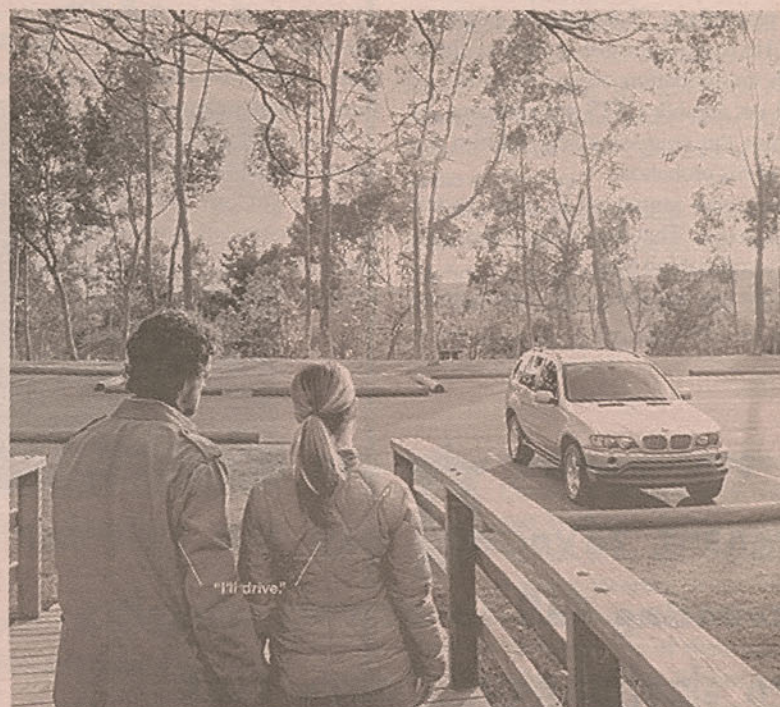
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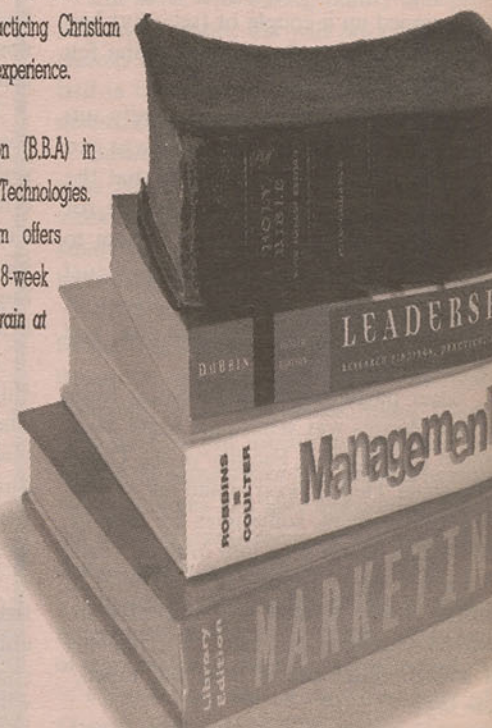
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The basketball Wolverines have a surfeit of riches this season—an unexpected eligibility for the NCAA tournament and more talent and depth on the roster than at any time in the past decade. For Tommy Amaker's 2003–2004 team, the only question is: Is more, more?

In Amaker's first year, 2001–2002, the Wolverines didn't look any better than they had in Brian Ellerbe's swan song. But two things changed. First, the coach began to bring in players who were committed both to the school and to the notion of winning as a team, as opposed to getting a one- or two-year ticket to the NBA. Second, Amaker made it clear that playing the game his way was more important than talent. During the Big Ten season, he pointedly played willing but lightly talented walk-on Mike Godfredson as much as high school superstar Dommanic Ingerson—and more than Detroit schoolboy star Chuck Bailey. Ignoring the season-

ing a first-ever win against UCLA at Pauley Pavilion. Michigan then prevailed in its opening six contests in the Big Ten, beating OSU at Nutville and winning at home against the dreaded Sparties, before finally losing to a fine Illinois team on the road in a very close game. After Michigan won an improbable come-from-behind victory against Wisconsin at Crisler, fans swarmed the court as if the Wolverines had won a national championship. All of a sudden, everybody loved Tommy. Although the team faded in the stretch, the 10–6 Big Ten record exceeded anyone's reasonable expectations—including my own 7–9 prediction in the Observer last year.

Now I admit the odds of a team's winning thirteen in a row after losing its first six must be infinitesimal. So was it pure luck? Spartan Bob turning blue and fixing the clock? (Twenty seconds in,

forty-five of fifty-two free throws in Big Ten play, and averaged 5.3 rebounds per game, quite good from the two (shooting) guard position. And unlike most freshmen, Abram played smart and composed.

Horton and Abram are back—and this season Lester is unlikely to be overlooked. On a 10:30 p.m. jog last summer, I noticed the lights on in the Crisler tunnel and wandered in. On one end of the court, big men Amadou Ba and J. C. Mathis worked tirelessly on footwork. On the other end,

the scrimmage he drilled thirteen consecutive shots—two acrobatic drives, five turnaround jumpers, and six threes.

Lester is ready.

Horton has also improved his already considerable game. He seems more confident off the dribble and more trusting of his team. And this year there is help in the backcourt in the person of Dion Harris, last year's Mr. Basketball in Michigan. Harris steps in for Gavin Groninger, and while he will be pressed to match

This year, the Michigan men's basketball team is loaded with talent. But is more, more?

by Craig Ross

Rags to Riches

long clamoring from fans for “minutes for Dom,” Amaker established an order and emphasis within his program: You wanna play? Fine. Read my lips. They are saying “Defense” and “Good shot selection.” Both Dom and Chuck later transferred to other schools.

Initially it seemed that Amaker's principles would have a steep short-term cost: the Wolverines began the 2002–2003 season on a 0–6 skid. Losses to St. Bonaventure, Virginia Tech, Kansas State, Western Michigan, and Central Michigan set the stage for their annual waxing by Duke. True, Western and Central were real teams—but losing to MAC schools at Crisler is not exactly what the average Michigan fan considered a rebirth of the program.

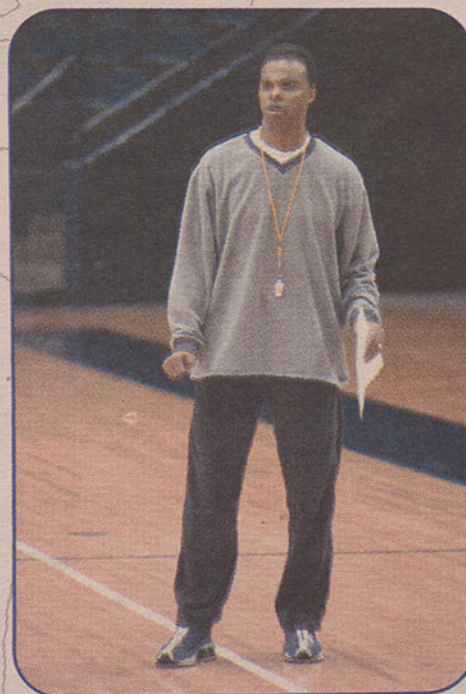
At that juncture, the talk on the street was that Michigan would be lucky to win a single game in the Big Ten season—especially after Amaker pitched Avery Queen, his only experienced backcourt player, over behavioral issues after the K State game. “There is not one chance in a hundred that Michigan will win more than two games in the Big Ten this year,” local attorney and basketball expert Kurt Berggren declared. “They might not win any.”

But the Wolverines shocked Berggren—and everyone else—by winning their final seven nonconference games, includ-

the U-M up 2–0. Ohhhh!!! Game over, due to unusual time vortex.) Or just plain weird ju-ju? Nope. It was none of the above. It was the best freshman guard tandem in Michigan history.

After dismissing Avery Queen, Amaker had no choice but to play point guard Daniel Horton just about every minute of every game. Horton responded by averaging sixteen points and 4.6 assists. His turnovers were well within reason, especially with the little relief he had. Horton also played good defense. He ran the team and—rightfully—got the credit. He became the star.

Horton's sidekick, Lester Abram, went through the season generally unnoticed. This was pretty odd, since he, too, almost never left the floor. (Abram averaged 34.1 minutes of playing time in Big Ten games, to Horton's 37.4.) Noticed or not, Abram shot an astounding 49 percent from the floor, rarely taking a bad look during the season. He shot 45 percent from the three-point line, best in the conference if he'd made enough attempts to qualify in the official stats. He played respectable defense, made



Coach Tommy Amaker (left) gave up some skilled players to establish order and discipline on his team—and still amazed everyone by turning in a 10–6 Big Ten record last year. This season, the trick will be to find enough playing time for his much-improved roster.

Daniel Horton (right) was half of the best freshman guard tandem in U-M history last year. Horton and Lester Abram look even better as sophomores.

Bernard Robinson Jr., Colin Dill, and Abram pushed each other in shooting drills. They were already tired when I walked in, but they drove each other for another hour.

In September I watched Abram playing in a pickup game with teammates. During



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Rags to Riches

continued

Harris scored thirty-three and eighteen points against LeBron James while playing for Detroit Redford last year—not exactly shabby against the NBA's number one pick. At six feet three and 200 pounds, Harris can play physical. He also can handle the ball and pass. He can spell Horton at the point or push Abram to the three (small forward) position when Amaker wants to go small and quick.

Last year, because of lack of backup, neither Abram nor (especially) Horton could afford to foul. The addition of Harris gives the Wolverines the luxury of being more aggressive on defense. Sherrod Harrell, a sophomore walk-on, is also a fine athlete who can play at the point if needed. Dani Wohl, a transfer from Binghamton, has a solid handle.

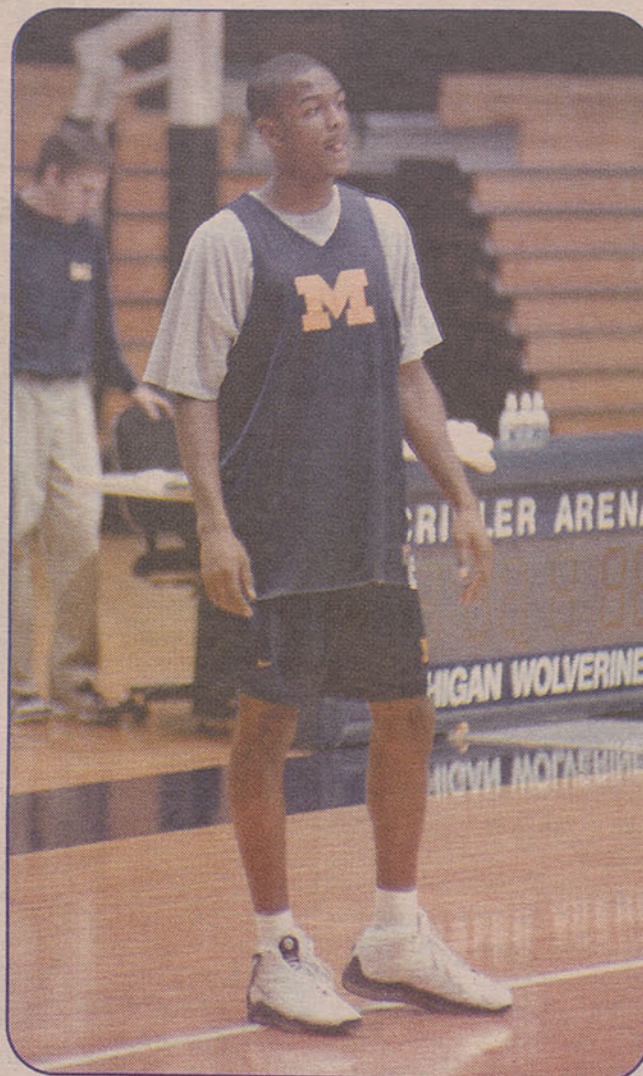
Bernard Robinson will again start at the small forward position. Robinson, too, worked tirelessly this summer to improve his weaknesses—ball handling and shooting. He's still slightly short on NBA skills; most notably, his jump shot lacks balance. But Robinson is an NBA-quality athlete, close to the big time, and at the college level he can compete with anyone at his position. Last year LaVell Blanchard float-

way, a six-foot-nine speedster who can play either forward position. Speedster? Yep. Petway was one of the top sprinters in Georgia last year, running a 10.93-second (10.92 won) 100 meters in the state

During his first Big Ten season, Amaker pointedly played walk-on Mike Gotfredson as much as high school superstar Dommanic Ingerson—and more than Detroit school-boy star Chuck Bailey. Both Dom and Chuck later transferred to other schools.

finals. He can also jump—during a break between pickup games this summer, Gavin Groninger asked Petway to show him how high he could jump “without the ball.” Petway obligingly sauntered to the lane, jumped, and got his armpit over the rim.

Petway's game is rough—he is likely a year away from making a major contribution—but his athletic skills are astounding. He has the ability to make a difference this year. Chris Hunter, last year's half-time center, might also get a look at the small forward spot, because of the logjam at center and power forward. Again, Amaker has the luxury of different looks, playing the near-seven-foot Hunter at the small forward and “going big,” with twenty-one feet in the frontcourt. John Andrews, a summa cum laude high school grad, is a walk-on but was All-State (class B) in Michigan last year.



Lester Abram shot an astounding 49 percent from the floor last year. After working hard over the summer, he's likely to contribute even more this season.

ed between the three and four (power forward) spots, neither of which truly suited him. (Blanchard is playing in the Italian leagues this year as a two guard.) This year Michigan has the luxury of Brent Pet-

Amaker played Blanchard at the four, started one of the frosh in the middle, and then, if fouls were not a problem, occasionally used Hunter and Brown in the lineup together. However, fouls generally

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were a problem, and the center tandem was often forced to play conservative and tentative defense.

No such issue exists this year. Brown and Hunter are both stronger and in better shape, and they're joined by team leader and Virginia transfer J. C. Mathis, who had to sit out last year under NCAA rules. Mathis is the classic power forward, a sort of pared-down version of former U-M bruiser Butch Wade—with a little more finesse. Let it be noted, however, that J. C. can bang and play defense—so that neither Brown nor Hunter will be constrained in contesting shots, especially since Brent Petway also can play the power forward position.

And the Wolverine depth doesn't stop there. Amadou Ba, a six-foot-ten center from Mauritania, led the Wolverines in bench enthusiasm last year; this year he gets to trade in his tie for shorts. Ba, who speaks English, French, Arabic, and two other languages, is a somewhat mechanical player, but he is big and strong. He has reasonable hands, doesn't shy away from contact, and understands the game. He also has a nice ten-foot bank shot, and is incredibly polite—he let me try to change his free-throw shooting motion this summer with nary a complaint. He did, however, have an amused look on his face, as if a parrot were teaching him English.

Finally there is the wild card—freshman Courtney Sims. Sims, at six feet eleven, was undefeated as a tennis player in his freshman year in high school and was a national tennis recruit. He's even better on the hardwood. Sims averaged twenty-six points, thirteen rebounds, and six blocks a game as a high school senior in Massachusetts, and was listed as between the number 43 and number 85 high school prospect in the country by the various recruiting services. I think those rankings were far too low, and I don't see how Amaker can keep Sims off the court—at least for long. Sims is thin but wiry, and his hands are outstanding. Aside from Chris Webber, whom many might like to forget, Sims has the best hands I have seen at the U-M in twenty-five years. His first step to the basket is as quick as U-M great Phil Hubbard's, but he is a better passer out of the post. He has good footwork around the basket and is comfortable in the paint, but he can also step out to seventeen feet and hit the jump shot. He can even shoot the three. I do not claim Sims will be a star from day one—he won't be—but he will help right away, and next year he will do more than help.

So this year's Michigan team, even sans LaVell Blanchard, is stronger than last year's. Since I like to define things in a mathematical way, I'll say it's about 17 percent stronger. This year's team has ball-handling help for Daniel Horton and depth, with six players in the six-eight to seven-foot range. Amaker has the option of playing greyhounds and pressing, or attempting to overpower the opposition with size and force. With more depth, the Wolverines can also defend as hard as they would prefer without worrying about foul issues. And this year, most of all, there is something to play for.

So what's the problem? Well, maybe there isn't one. But there are questions. ▶

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Rags to Riches

continued

First, Michigan's turnaround last year, while remarkable, was also a bit less than it seemed. The first six wins were at home against tepid competition. The seventh win, over UCLA, was a good victory, but the Wolverines caught the dispirited Bruins at the right time, in the midst of a 10-19 season with a 5-10 record at home. Second, the Big Ten schedule was made to order for Michigan: no MSU or Iowa on the road, no Indiana at home, and, indeed, a Big Ten that was more or less "down," particularly after injuries crippled Purdue and OSU.

Even so, the Wolverines outscored their Big Ten opposition by only twenty-seven points, a record that would imply (via Bill James's baseball equations, which I have modified for basketball) an 8.3-win season, as opposed to the ten games actually won. The Wolverines were eighth in the confer-

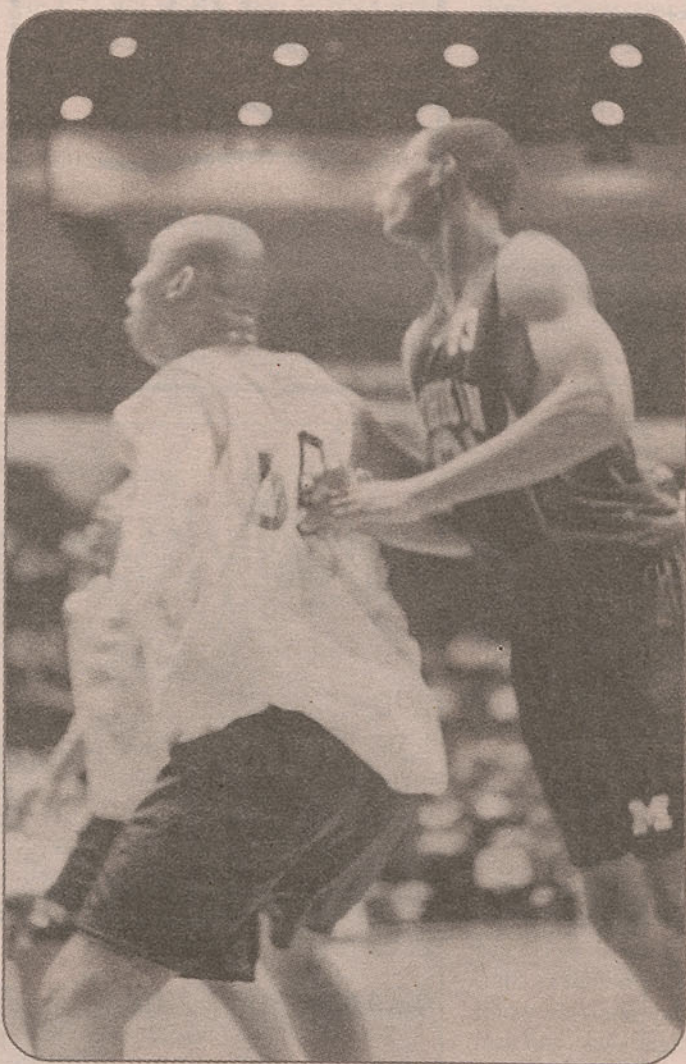
Indiana shot at least 102 more foul shots than its opposition, averaging an extra 123 free tosses per year. And the Hoosiers played a much tougher nonconference schedule.) I wouldn't bet that positive free throw shooting would become a trend, although Amaker's on-court demeanor seems to help. He doesn't jerk the zebras around, and most seem to appreciate it.

This year the Big Ten will be much tougher. With the possible exception of the ACC, it will provide the country's strongest competition. MSU, Wisconsin, and Illinois will all be ranked in the top fifteen (or better) in preseason polls. The Spartans and the Badgers may both be in the top five, and, in my opinion, MSU brings in the most talented team in the country. All three teams have legitimate national championship aspirations—although I can't really see who will stop MSU.

The rest of the league won't be pushovers. Indiana has the best player in the conference (Bracey Wright) and a solid, if unspectacular, supporting cast. Min-

nesota lost the terrif-

ic Rick Rickert, but Maurice Hargrow and Michael Bauer are joined by one of the top freshmen in the country, forward Kris Humphries, plus North Carolina transfer Adam Boone. Purdue has the best coach alive in Gene Keady, and a solid backcourt. The Purdue frontcourt has Keady's ordinary complement of big, mean guys who look as if they can't play—until you gotta bust heads with them. In other words, Purdue will be an ordinary over-achieving Keady team, hard to beat on the road and nearly impossible to beat in West Lafayette. Some preseason polls have the Boilers in the top thirty. The same holds for Ohio State, a deep and big team with some questions at



Center Amadou Ba (left) comes off the bench this year. Former Georgia sprinter Brent Petway (right) has great potential.

ence in scoring margin, a position that would generally translate to an eighth-place finish. Michigan ended up fourth only because everything worked for the Wolverines last year—even free throws attempted, which Michigan has been notoriously bad at for the past twenty-five years. From 1998 through 2001, the Wolverines averaged forty-eight fewer tosses per season than their opponents. But in 2002-2003 they were *plus* forty-one, including a very rare plus six in Big Ten play. (One comparison: In the same four years,

the point guard position. Even Iowa is pretty good, and Northwestern is not a patsy. (Okay, Penn State is a patsy.)

So maybe the Wolverines were lucky last year. And no question, the Big Ten is better this time around. So it's hard to imagine this year's model equaling last year's 10-6.

True, Amaker's team is better, both on paper and in the flesh. With their added depth this year, the Wolverines can fight

PHOTO J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The students return

One way to measure the depths to which the Michigan basketball program plummeted is student season ticket sales. A decade ago, in the Fab Five era, more than 6,000 students applied for basketball season tickets. By 2000-2001, Brian Ellerbe's last season, that number had declined by 90 percent. The 594 students buying season tickets that year amounted to less than 2 percent of the university's 35,000 enrollment.

In Tommy Amaker's first year he made it a priority to court the student body and the "Maize Rage," the diehard remnants of the Michigan fan base. Student season tickets inched up to 781, only to plunge back to 601 when Amaker's first year looked as awful as Ellerbe's last. But this year, the anorexic student section is finally regaining some long-lost weight. As of this writing, 1,905 students had purchased season tickets, with a few late requests still trickling in.

Ticket commissar Marty Bodnar

sees many things contributing to the turnaround, starting with last year's surprising 17-13 record. The *Michigan Daily* credits another factor, which Bodnar discounts: the U-M's unexpected eligibility for the NCAA tournament, thanks to a successful appeal of sanctions arising from the Ed Martin scandal. Undergraduate Sara Kase told the *Daily* she and her roommate decided to buy only after learning that the team would be eligible for postseason play. "I definitely gave it a second thought, because I thought the games would be more fun," Kase said.

For the basketball purist, the outcome of games may be less important than the élan or style of the affairs. But for the casual fan, having the result mean something—the chance to be in the Big Dance and win it all—is more important than style points. Kase is right: the chance to take part in March Madness will make this year's games more fun. And that's the point, after all. —C.R.

for every rebound and contest every shot without fear of the (foul) consequences. But every strength creates its own weakness. Amaker and his staff have one potentially significant problem, one that will test his ability as a coach and leader: there just isn't enough playing time for this team.

While adding Dion Harris to the backcourt rotation may work out without rancor, it will keep Bernard Robinson at small forward (he played some guard last year) and squeezes the time at that spot. That leaves six good players fighting for the power forward and center minutes. Chris Hunter, J. C. Mathis, and Graham Brown all have some proven ability. No coach should be able to keep Courtney Sims and Brent Petway on the bench, absent redshirting one of these two. And Amadou Ba needs minutes to develop.

Last year Hunter and Brown were able to improve their games, with the knowledge that they could make mistakes. This understanding facilitates improvement and team camaraderie. In the words of Larry Bird, it gives players "the right to miss." This year the primary chore of the coaching staff will be to keep the players on the floor from looking over their shoulders at those sitting on the bench. Last year's Wolverines were cohesive, supporting each other and playing as a team. That harmony could be jeopardized if ill feelings arise over playing time. Jealousies within a program can make the whole much less than the sum of its parts.

As of this writing, Amaker and his team

are minimizing this problem. Horton and Abram have welcomed Dion Harris and the relief he provides in the backcourt. As for the frontcourt, the coach deflects the notion that his players might become disgruntled by the minute-crunch. After an exhibition tour in Canada in October, Amaker said, "I learned that we have the makeup of a team that's willing to sacrifice, to really share the ball. I was very impressed and pleased with our ability to be unselfish." The coach admitted, however, that "we have some very tough decisions, because we have a number of players who are competing for opportunities to play. Things could get tough in that regard, but that's the kind of good decision as a coach that you want to have."

If Amaker can keep his players focused on the team, more really will be more. In any case, it should be an exciting season. Nonconference foes UCLA, North Carolina State, (the very underrated) Butler, and Bowling Green will test the Wolverines early. Bowling Green is the best team in the MAC, with likely first-round NBA pick Kevin Netter (honest, that's his name) at center. Western Michigan is again quite capable, and Vanderbilt on the road won't be easy. Still, the Wolverines have a non-conference schedule that should allow them to have a pretty good record heading into conference play.

My prediction: 9-2 out of conference and 9-7 in conference. That would add up to 18-9 heading into the Big Ten Tournament, and it implies an NCAA berth. As always, you will be able to look it up. ■

My prediction: 9-2 out of conference and 9-7 in conference. That would add up to 18-9 heading into the Big Ten Tournament, and it implies an NCAA berth. As always, you will be able to look it up.



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STANDING OUT IN THE CROWD

The Observer's 2003 Holiday Guide.

BY LAURA MCREYNOLDS
WITH TONY MCREYNOLDS

A friend of mine likes to tell about the time a San Francisco pal paid a visit to her house in Ann Arbor and was infuriated to discover that they both owned the same lamp. "But where did you find it?" he fumed, having been sure he owned a unique treasure. It turned out she'd bought it at Pier One. "Those lamps are everywhere," she says.

Between big chain stores, mail order catalogs, and the Internet, it's getting harder and harder to stumble across wonderful little finds—especially during the holiday shopping season, when ads arrive in double-digit numbers every day. Example: One year, someone gave me a set of iron-and-glass candleholders for Christmas. I liked them just fine, but I'd been seeing them in the Pottery Barn catalog for months, and I knew exactly how much they cost. I feel churlish admitting it, but it took some of the fun out of the gift.

Conversely, I got lucky last year when I was in a small shop and found a lovely red leather travel-size jewelry case for my glamorous, globe-trotting grandmother. Her response said it all: "Thank you," she wrote, "for giving me something so perfect that I didn't even know I wanted it!" Now that's the very definition of a wonderful little find.

The big hitch: locating them takes time. Ideally you'll spend hours poking through shops, mulling over each recipient and waiting for an "Aha!" to hit you between the eyes. Fortunately, I get paid to troll through stores. This year I avoided the big chains—you know what

you can buy there, and if you don't, just check out their websites—to concentrate on independently owned shops where the inventory is usually more diverse. Not everything listed here is unique to the store where I found it—and probably little of it is totally unique to Ann Arbor. But just about everything is something the gift recipients on your list are probably not expecting. Sometimes the best gift of all is the element of surprise.

My three-year-old doesn't sit down much, but when he does, he's thrilled by furniture scaled to his size. TMC on Ann near Fourth Avenue sells an assortment of charming child-size chairs, including a \$75 curvaceous plywood-and-veneer homage to Eames and adorable paint-your-own bentwood chairs made of European beech for \$19. If you don't have the time or temperament to paint or stain the chair yourself to match your child's room, the store will do it for you for another \$10. Better yet, for a true custom look, give the unfinished chair to your child along with a set of paints.

Like every other kid in town, my son loves the activities at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum—and, with almost equal fervor, the fun science- and technology-oriented toys

flies, sea turtles, trout, birds, and an assortment of animals from the African savannas. They're \$28.

If you don't know how to knit but want people to think you cared enough about them to learn, Vintage to Vogue has chunky, lovably handmade-looking

acrylic and wool scarves and knit caps in retro color combinations like olive green and acid yellow, and purple hippie flowers on an even purpler background, \$26–\$38. They're made by Wooden Ships, but the label looks as if it would be easy to snip out. I won't tell.

My mom insists on wrapping every single present under the tree in different paper—no repeats allowed. I'm not quite that fanatical, but I've noticed that even a relatively ordinary gift—socks, aftershave, ties—seems more special in a pretty package. You can dress up your gifts

quite beautifully at Kerrytown's Hollander's with \$2–\$6 sheets of specialty papers, including holiday themes, reproduced illuminated manuscripts, gold-tone and rough-texture natural fibers, geometric Frank Lloyd Wright designs, and even something that looks and feels remarkably like lizard skin.

At the Tabor Hill Wine Tasting Room & Gallery on West Liberty, there's a wide selection from west Michigan's Tabor Hill Winery, natch, plus a RapidIce wine cooler for \$10, a collapsible, gel-filled sleeve perfect for when your guests are at the door and you suddenly remember the wine needs to be chilled. Just slip the RapidIce out of the freezer and over the bottle: it'll chill the wine in five minutes and keep it cold for hours.

If computer games leave you cold, try getting the family together for an old-fashioned game of bingo. Acme Mercantile on West Liberty sells a home bingo game with bingo cards,

balls, and an old-fashioned steel cage you turn with a crank for \$30. For the clumsy card players on your list who can't shuffle a deck without turning a poker game into a round of fifty-two pickup, the \$16 Auto Card Shuffler does the job at the touch of a button. And if the words "Thunderbirds are go!" mean anything to you, a reproduction Thunderbirds lunch box will bring back some pleasant boomer memories for \$20.

Chocoholic chess players will love the \$50 edible chess set from Schokolad Chocolate Factory on East Washington. The pieces and board are regulation size and made of two full pounds of white and dark chocolate, so that you could get your king out of check simply by eating the offending piece. The same price will buy you an edible backgammon set, or for \$25 Schokolad has dark chocolate footballs that melt in your mouth, not on the scrimmage line.

Beanie Babies are out, but Pride Babies are in, at least at Common Language bookstore on Fourth Avenue. They look basically like Beanie Babies, but they're a lot more socially conscious. Pick up cuddly Rainbow Bear for \$8. Common Language also stocks an interesting selection of children's books for nontraditional families, like *Booty, Girl Pirate of the High Seas*, featuring stories of "plunder, pillage, and romance," for \$17. Common Language also



A walk around a single block downtown can turn up some distinctly different holiday gifts. (Clockwise from top) Vintage style KitchenAid A-9 coffee mill, at Downtown Home & Garden; boomer-retro Thunderbirds lunch box, at Acme Mercantile; historic action figures, at Peaceable Kingdom.

in its gift shop. The museum's science lab makes what the museum publicity director says are "buckets and buckets" of slime; now your kids can, too, with a Power Putty Slime Science Kit for \$5.99. For \$14.95 you can get a giant bone that looks like something Fred Flintstone would have tossed to Dino, filled with ready-to-color posters and mazes. The "official astronaut" freeze-dried ice cream snacks near the cash register reminded me of the space-age snack foods of my Apollo-era youth: Tang, Space Food Sticks, and Shake-a-Puddin'. I wasn't brave enough to eat them, but the shop manager says the chunks of ice cream taste sort of like Lucky Charms marshmallows.

Upstairs in Kerrytown, Mudpuddles sells fantastic playthings like imaginative floor puzzles, a great series of kid crafts books marketed under the name Klutz, the addictive "Benders" posable monkeys—at \$9 to \$15, good stocking stuffers—and something completely unique to the store: animal-shape mobiles so appealing, Mudpuddles' owners say they're what gave them the idea to change the shop from a pottery shop to a toy and nature store in the first place. Made by a Washington State company called Skyflight, they feature hand-stained, museum-quality cardboard animals with three-dimensional wings or limbs. The most popular are—no surprise to any parent—the dinosaurs, but you can also get frogs, dragon-

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STANDING OUT IN THE CROWD

The Observer's 2003 Holiday Guide.
continued

has great T-shirts, including one that says "I'll be postfeminist in the postpatriarchy" for \$17.

Downtown Home & Garden has a retro KitchenAid coffee mill (\$130). It's the classic 1930s model A-9 design seen in old Warner Brothers movies where the crooks hide out at a roadside diner; it looks cool, and it grinds up to fourteen cups' worth of coffee beans at a time. Even more retro: a four-quart White Mountain wooden ice cream freezer (it's not a freezer for storing ice cream, it's an ice cream maker, and it's what people used at

got was a headlamp. Essentially a squat flashlight you wear on your forehead, it leaves your hands free for other things, like pitching a tent after dark or fixing the plumbing under the bathroom sink. Mostly, my husband uses his as a book light. Bivouac's headlamps start at \$25.

Kaleidoscope on State has a terrific collection of vintage science fiction paperbacks from the pulp era, like *False Night*, a story of "unleashed passion in a city gone mad!" for \$30. Or *Hell Flower*, whose cover features what looks like an evil orchid menacing a cowering woman ("Its deadly perfume threatens the world!") for \$15. My favorite: *The Big Eye*, whose cover shows a big red eye looming over a city as people flee in panic in the streets below ("Red peril rode the heavens as a frightened world faced annihilation!"). It's \$25.

Give the gift of toasty toes with a pair of battery-heated socks from Harry's on Liberty. They were developed to help Atlantic fishermen keep their feet warm at sea, and run on a single D battery. They're washable—just

make sure you remove the battery first. Harry's also sells boat whistles, the kind that go "Ooo-EEE-ooo" when boatswains pipe visitors aboard a ship, for \$6. You can even pick up a real, working battle-axe for, I don't know, scaling a raised drawbridge, starting at \$24.

Also on Liberty, Poshh specializes in small quantities of unusual designerwear, minimizing the chances that your gift recipient will walk into a party and spot someone else wearing the same tiny pink rabbit-fur sweater (\$209). Give the exhibitionist on your list a pair of Frankie B. slim flared-leg jeans with a zipper that runs from the waist in the front through the crotch and up to the waist at the back. Poshh also sells the ultimate Little Black Dress with shirred waist and bust. It's \$236, by BCBG Max Azria.

Bug and art lovers alike would appreciate the spectacular shadow-boxed butterfly, praying mantis, centipede, and beetle specimens at Studio Sixteen in Nickels Arcade. Intricately shaped and brilliantly colored, they're fascinating works of art ranging from \$100 to \$400. The beauty of nature is also evident in the store's extensive seashell collection, including big, rose-tinged conch shells (\$60) and graceful nautilus shells (\$24). I liked a stuffed porcupine fish that managed to convey a certain prickly dignity despite being one of the sea's sillier-looking creatures. They're \$15 each.

The tiny pink rabbit-fur sweater is at Poshh on Liberty; the nautilus shells are from Studio Sixteen, nearby in Nickels Arcade.



PHOTOS: J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

home before either Ben or Jerry was born). Or consider the Whirley Pop popcorn maker: fill it with kernels and a little oil, heat it over the stove while you turn the crank, and Whirley Pop promises it'll be done in half the time of microwave popcorn. It's what people used at home before, well, before Orville Redenbacher was born.

Your nephew loves action figures but you find them a little too violent? Consider a six-inch Pope Innocent III action figure from Peaceable Kingdom. He lived from 1161 to 1216, and as the box says, "His weapon of choice: excommunication," which is how he vanquished England's King John in 1209. Other unusual action figures include Cleopatra and Jesus ("with posable arms and gliding action!"). And as always, Peaceable Kingdom is one of the best places in town to pick up scads of oddball stocking stuffers on the cheap.

When it comes to great stocking stuffers, a stove doesn't usually come to mind, but the \$11 Esbit pocket stove at Bivouac on State Street is a notable exception. Closed, it's the size of a deck of cards. Open, it's big enough to heat up a pot of freeze-dried soup or boil a cup of water for coffee. One of the most unusual—and useful—gifts my husband ever

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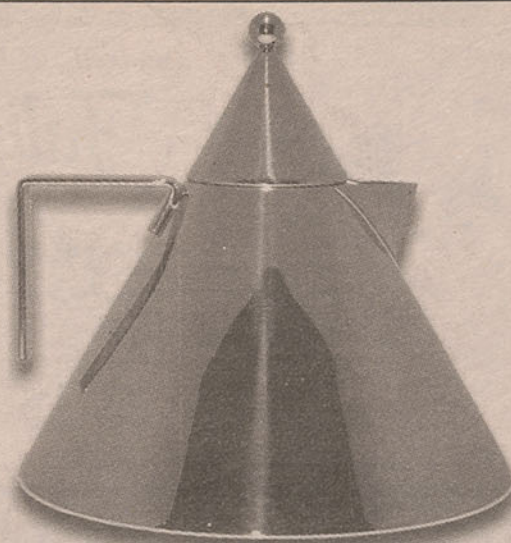
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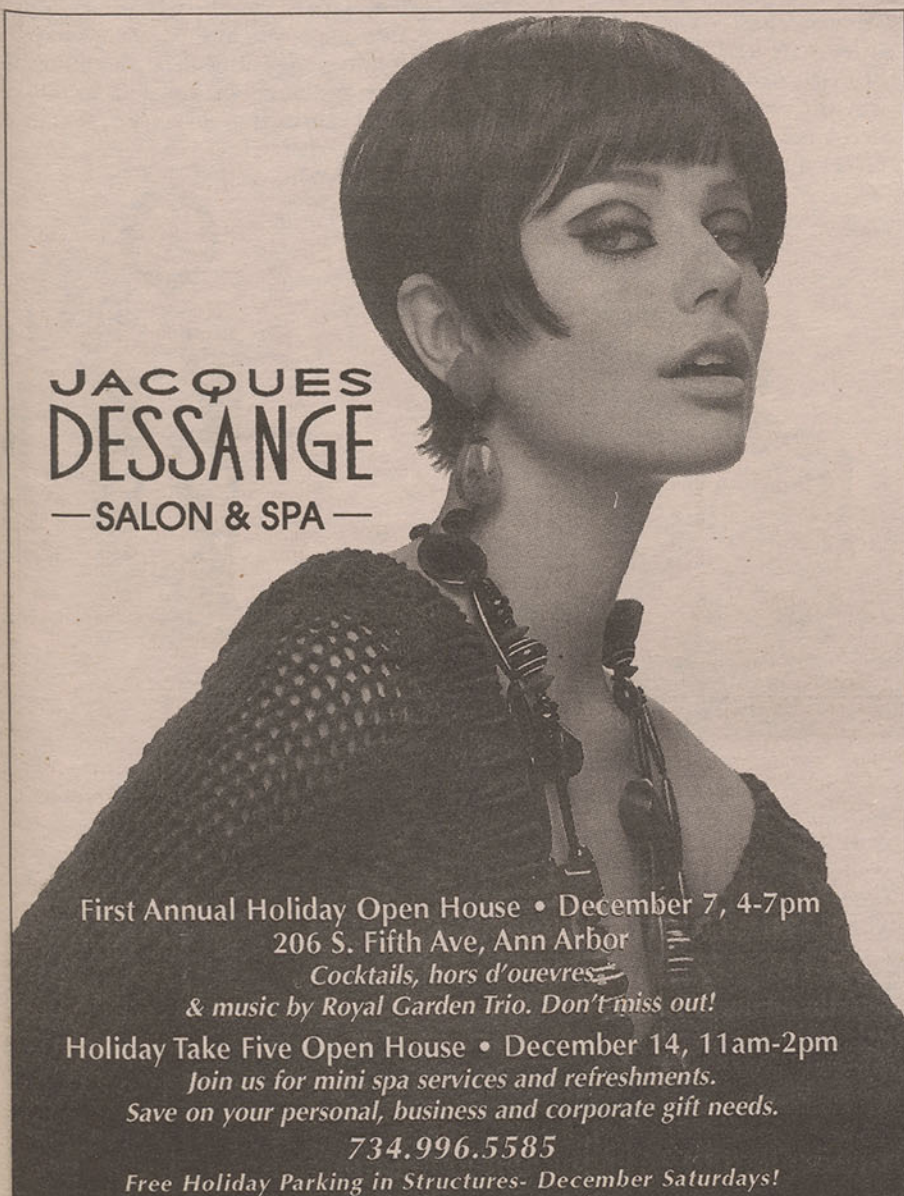
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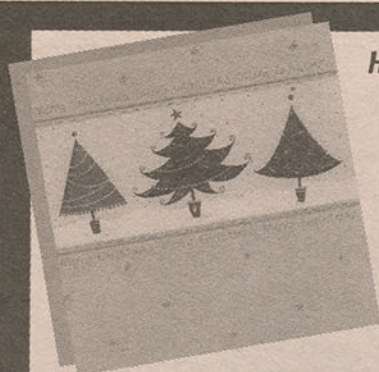

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STANDING OUT IN THE CROWD

The Observer's 2003 Holiday Guide.
continued

For the traditionalist on your list, may I suggest imported Mason Pearson brushes and combs from Maison Edwards? They'd look just right laid out next to a monogrammed handkerchief on a gentleman's or lady's dressing table. If your shopping list leans more toward Maw and Paw than Milord and Milady, a small corncob pipe (\$4.95) might be more fitting. Nonsmokers? A candy pipe, then, at just 75¢.

Hip flasks aren't just for wearing on your hip anymore. Middle Earth on South University sells a silver flask that looks like a cell phone, complete with a leather cell phone holder that slips onto your belt (perfect for slipping a martini into those marathon board meetings). It's \$27. Other flasks include traditional hip flasks with pictures of Judy Garland, Dean Martin, and Che Guevara (perfect for sneaking Cuba libres into those marathon Castro speeches). They start at \$30.

"You can never have too many dice,"

proclaims a sign at Underworld Comics and Games on South University. They mean it: this place has more dice than I've ever seen collected in one place, even dice with up to thirty sides. A math student who happened by while I was trying to count those thirty sides informed me that I was holding a rhombic triacontahedron. The guy behind the counter called the dice "novelties," and they go for \$250 apiece. Underworld carries all kinds of role-playing games that span many millennia and multiple dimensions; some even involve thirty-sided dice. But you can also find old reliables like Monopoly, including a special \$30 first-edition reproduction of the 1935 original, complete with wooden buildings and metal tokens.

Dave's Photo Emporium on State Street is first and foremost a state-of-the-art photography supplier. But it's also, unexpectedly, an antiques shop, with an assortment of beautiful old cameras in perfect working condition, like the 1902 Tele-Photo-Poco, a large bellows camera that uses those old-fashioned five-by-seven plates to shoot pictures. It still works, and Dave has the five-by-seven film to go with it. It's \$400 and includes a lovely burnished leather case. Dave's also has beau-

GIFTS OF ART

Glass bumblebees and ladybugs flit in the air at Option Four. The small gallery shop at 1103 South University shimmers with sparkling jewelry and flowing red, yellow, and green glass vases. A teenage boy pauses to admire the wee robot clock. Women who remember using manual typewriters tend to stray to the "Typos" bracelets and earrings made of antique typewriter keys. For others, the lure is the funky, fun necklaces and clocks made of recycled bottle caps and vinyl records

in the gift shop, maybe the one featuring favorite cats in art. They've got famous Fidos, too.

Selo/Shevel at 335 South Main Street features glass—tiny flying pink pigs and mermaids, starfish and jellyfish paperweights, goblets, and art glass ranging from nestlike vases made of strands of glass in the window to sedimentary layers of canyon colors in Frederick Warren's large vessels. This gallery also has contemporary menorahs and Judaica. For a larger collection of mezuzahs, try Selo/Shevel at 301 South Main, which also features masks,



with the hours marked by images of movie stars or such art stars as Botticelli's Venus.

'Tis the time to amble through galleries and art spots to enjoy the local bounty of arts and crafts, ranging from \$4 glass sun catchers to four-figure landscapes and bronzes.

Begin your tour at the U-M Museum of Art on South State Street with an inspirational visit to your favorite painting. Then if anyone on your list is a real art history buff, check out the in-joke T-shirts

furniture, mobiles, finely crafted wooden boxes, and women's velvet-lambskin hats, which are lush in looks and size for that hat aficionado with a bigger skull. Retailers would sell more women's hats if they offered the same choice of sizes those lucky guys get.

It's almost impossible to go wrong at Heavenly Metal, the diminutive gift shop haircutter Vicki Honeyman opened inside her Ann Street salon earlier this year. Everything here is witty and original, from handmade lampwork bead earrings by Kristin Perkins to color-saturated

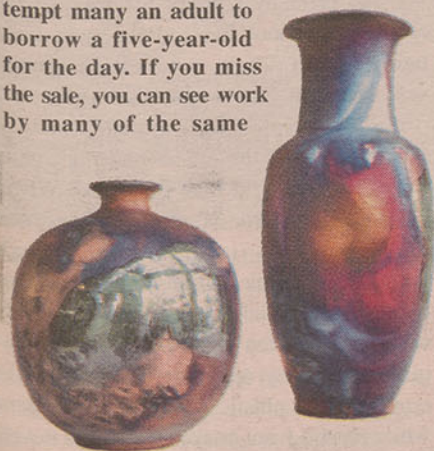
tiful antique brass microscopes from the 1920s starting at \$240. For a one-of-a-kind gift, check out the 1950s civil defense kit with Geiger counter, helmet, and "radio-logical dosimeter charger," all in the original Shelter Radiator Kit box for \$100.



Century-old 1902 Tele-Photo-Poco camera and 1920s-vintage antique brass microscopes, at Dave's Photo Emporium.

fleece scarves with delicately ruffled edges that give them the look of cuddly squid. Vicki also has a red metal luminary shaped like a church and made from recycled sap buckets and old tin barn roofs; felted wool handbags crafted by a Nepalese artists' collective; and colorful baskets made from recycled newspapers and magazines. For true symmetry, use them to collect newspapers and magazines for recycling.

The Potters Guild holds its annual holiday sale, featuring hundreds of pots, under a heated tent on December 6 and 7 at 201 Hill Street. Its traditions include pots that only children may buy. These kiddie pots are so good that they tempt many an adult to borrow a five-year-old for the day. If you miss the sale, you can see work by many of the same



artists at the Clay Gallery at 110 East Liberty.

For art with a wide price range, check out the collective Washington Street Gallery at 120 East Liberty. A recent display featured large weavings, bronze dancers, mixed-media assemblages, a terra-cotta sculpture of a woman's head, abstract paintings, and landscape drawings. Browse through the bins of prints and drawings for delightful small works.

The Ann Arbor Art Center at 117 West Liberty is known for its holiday temptations in a variety of media. A sales clerk told me not to dither if I liked Alan Maciag's large rural landscape paintings.

For the golfer on the go, pick up a travel putter at Lou's Wolverine Golf & Gift on South Industrial. It breaks down into three pieces and fits into a carrying case with two golf

balls, a miniature putting green, and a cup—perfect for golfers who want to practice their short game indoors. And if they want to take a load off while they're out on an actual golf course, the collapsible Spectator Seat Stick is just the thing. It looks like a walking stick with a fat handle, but the handle folds out flat to form a leather seat, and the shaft is adjustable to different heights (\$25). It's good for watching kids' soccer games, too.

Musical fruits make great stocking

These visual testaments to farmland preservation sell quickly. The woodblock prints of crows are striking in their simplicity, and the feline fairy dolls are fun. I always buy lots of the little glass ornaments that are small enough to wrap and put in your purse when you need an instant gift for someone who startles you with an unexpected one.

Sixteen Hands at 216 South Main Street even has a "gentlemen's corner" for those who get dragged along while their mates explore the elegant textiles, wooden sculpture, tableware, dinosaur salt shakers, and felt finger puppets. The guy section features hand-painted silk neckties, woven scarves, vests, and the perfect gift for a baseball fan who still mourns the curses of the playoffs—a baseball stadium pinball game. Maybe it doesn't meet Webster's definition of art, but it has compensatory cleverness.

For serendipity, try the Artisan Market from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays at the Farmers' Market or the Work gallery at 306 South State. At the market you might find booths of landscapes and tables of art hats, but you should also dive into the bins of affordable matted prints, drawings, and watercolors. One artist had a surprisingly kind drawing of his ex-wife, who he said had made him miserable—an interesting contrast to the unflattering images Picasso drew of his then-current loves. U-M student art at Work changes monthly. Recent paintings sizzled with hip color and imagery, but poor use of the display windows often makes this gallery look like an empty storefront. Once a favorable review pasted in the window got better play than the art. Even this former reviewer knows that's a merchandising no-no in the competitive holiday season.

For more information about other art spots in town, see the Gallery and Shopping sections of the 2003-2004 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide, or arborweb.com. For holiday bazaars and other seasonal sales, check the Events calendar on p. 73.

—Peggy Page



"The Song of Hiawatha" Petoskey, 1909, by Grace Chandler

Grace Chandler's photographs are on display at the Kresge Art Museum at MSU, and at the Nokomis Center in Okemos, until December 18th.

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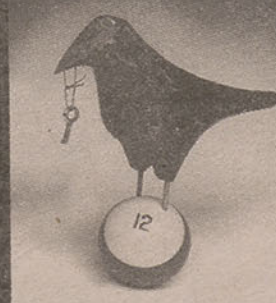
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STANDING OUT IN THE CROWD

The Observer's 2003 Holiday Guide.
continued

stuffers for kids, and Oz's Music has a nice selection of maracas masquerading as colorful apples, oranges, pears, and lemons (sorry, no beans) for \$6. Someone you know who's been talking about taking up an instrument can start out with a Strum Stick. It looks something like a five-inch-wide guitar with three strings and a full-length neck, but because it's tuned to an open chord, you can press one



Thumb-size baby Yemeni chameleons will grow to be sixteen inches long. At Aqua-Tec Engineers.

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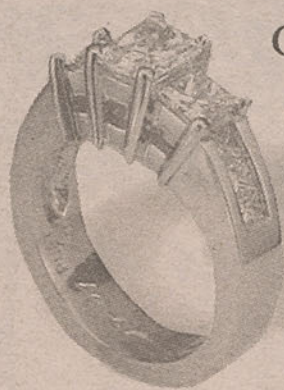
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finger to any fret and start strumming songs as if you've been playing for years. At \$95, it's a great way to give would-be musicians just the nudge they need.

I'm not sure why a bike under the tree is such a classic Christmas gift, considering that in many parts of the country, the recipient is about five months away from being able to ride it. But there's no doubt you could make someone's holiday—with a \$2,300 state-of-the-art half-carbon, half-steel LeMond road bike from Two Wheel Tango on Packard. More affordable—and more practical—is a \$240 "grow with you" bike by Trek that has adjustable handlebars and pedals to accommodate kids seven through ten years old. For rank beginners, a shiny red metal tricycle with a comfy white plastic seat and convenient white plastic front basket is just the ticket. Made in Italy, it's \$45.

For the moody animal lover on your list, consider the baby Yemeni chameleons at Aqua-Tec Engineers on Packard near Stadium. Clinging tenaciously to the wire top of their cage, they're about the size of an adult human thumb, and they're a cool lime green when they're not busy turning different colors to camouflage themselves against their surroundings or—according to Aqua-Tec owner Larry McKenna—just because they've a mind to. The babies are \$60 each and grow to be about sixteen inches long over their seven-year life span. You'll also need to stock up on their favorite food: crickets, \$1 per dozen.

Every parent has witnessed that trite-but-truism about how babies and kids are more interested in the package than in the toy that came in it. This year, why not forget the expensive toys and just give them packaging material in the first place? The Scrap Box, on State Circle, sells industrial castoffs perfect for kids' craft projects and for sparking the imagination, like cardboard wrapping paper tubes (telescopes!), felt scraps (who needs Colorforms?), and \$2 bundles of brightly colored nylon (capoes, parachutes, tents?). One crafty mom I know wrapped a coffee can in paper, made a slit in the plastic top, and, with a dozen frozen juice concentrate lids from the Scrap Box, made her tot her very own "bank" for depositing juice lid coins with a satisfying clank.

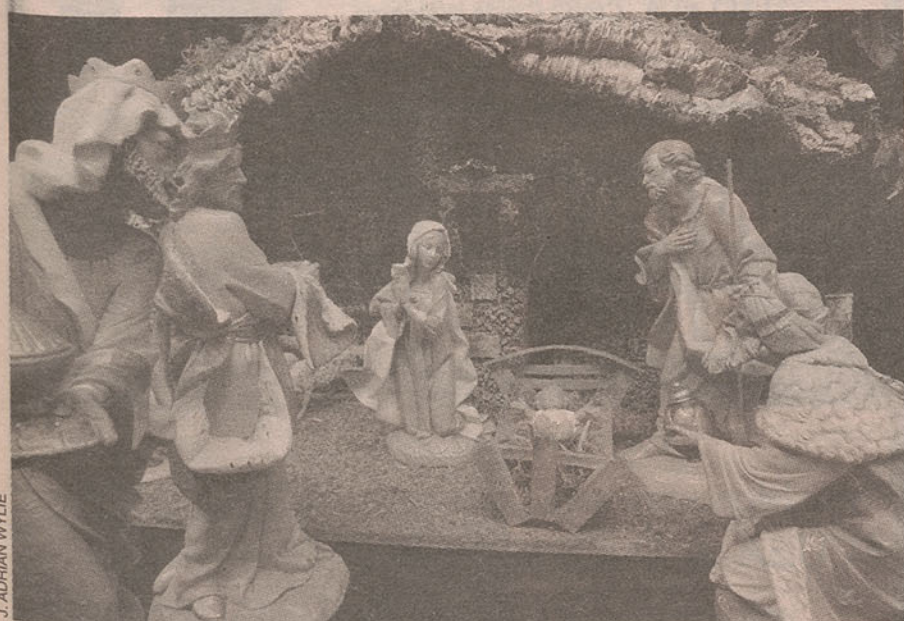
The art deco collector folks on your list will know the name Hall. The ones who don't will still appreciate the clean lines and pure colors of the 1930s-era company's pastel ceramic teapots, cups, saucers,

The Scrap Box sells industrial castoffs perfect for kids' craft projects and for sparking the imagination.

CDs are all available at the store for around \$12. Not unique to the shop but still magnificent are its Fontanini Nativity figures, which range in size and price from 2.5-inch, \$20 figures to foot-tall drummer boys, kneeling angels, and a fully lit stable for around \$100.

Remember those socks we mentioned that everyone wants and few get because people consider them a boring present? There's nothing dull about the deliciously cozy organic cotton and nylon socks by local manufacturer Maggie's Organics sold at Arbor Farms on West Stadium. Ranging from \$5.85 per pair for infant sizes to around \$7 for adult sizes, they include soothing colors like a natural linen shade, sage green, and, for \$10, an eye-popping tie-dye pattern. Buy a bunch and give them to the environmentally conscious on your list in a cotton canvas Arbor Farms tote bag (\$6.99).

Thredz, at Westgate Shopping Center, has what may well be the most interesting cardigans in town. Branded "neesh by D.A.R.," they're billed as "affordable



Christian Crossroads sells the magnificent Fontanini Nativity figures, along with a fully lit stable in which to display them.

and creamers. Individual pieces are priced in the \$10-\$40 range at Pandora's Box in Lamp Post Plaza. Poking through this self-titled "junk shop" is a great trip down memory lane for those of a certain age, and an anthropological exploration of ancient culture for anyone under thirty. Best finds one recent rainy afternoon: a red antique children's rocker with upholstered seat, \$40, and a metallic "sunburst"-style clock that looked as if it had come straight from the Bradys' flagstone fireplace wall, \$42.

Perhaps because of its location in Oak Valley Centre, many people think Christian Crossroads is a chain. Not only is it independently owned, it's also a big supporter of local Christian singer-songwriters, including Mark Brokaw, Saline's Jessica Alles-Smith, and Ian Keith Hafner, whose

clothing for grown-up girls," and while the "affordable" part may depend on the buyer's budget (the sweaters are \$136), the garments have an irresistible playful charm. Choose from a melon-colored sweater with green button placket and cuffs, a camel number trimmed in fringe, and color-saturated patchwork looks that go with everything in the closet.

A friend whose mom no longer can do fine needlework because of arthritis was thrilled to hear about the lovely fat knitting needles we found at Traver Village's Knit A Round Yarn Shop. Made of gleaming rosewood and palm wood by Lantern Moon,

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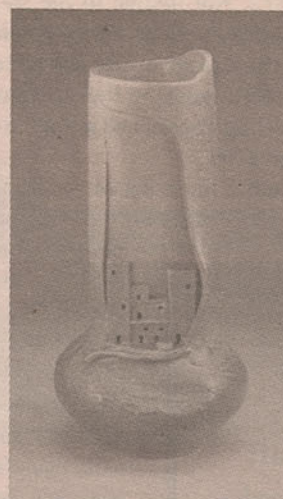
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STANDING OUT IN THE CROWD

The Observer's 2003 Holiday Guide.
continued

these needles are so beautiful a bouquet of them would look gorgeous in just the right vase. Knitters would also love a tapestry tote bag with its own hardwood stand, \$67, perfect for keeping an ongoing project chairside or for taking work with you.

White Rabbit Toys is stocking-stuffer central, with dozens of bins of tiny school buses, planes, rubber duckies, whistles, miniature card games, bubble blowers, and noisemakers. The store also sells some of the most original puppets we've ever seen: animal marionettes, including zebras, unicorns, camels, dragons, and monkeys. The big ones are \$22, the small ones \$7. Manipulated with just two sticks, they're easy for even youngsters to handle.

My preschooler still likes to fall asleep

White Rabbit sells some of the most original puppets we've ever seen: animal marionettes, including zebras, unicorns, camels, dragons, and monkeys.

something fast, take a page from the "mall walkers" who get their exercise at Briarwood and—assuming you can find a parking place Christmas Eve—go for a little mall sprint. Briarwood's halls are lined with offbeat kiosks whose vendors sell interesting, sometimes silly gifts, from cellular phones and accessories—there are lots of these—to glow-in-the-dark tongue and belly rings. Most of them hawk their wares at a brisk pace, which, allowing time for gasping and stitches in the side, should get you in and out of the mall in no time.

The Tupperware kiosk near JCPenney clearly believes in early brand identification, with its kids' line of \$14 SpongeBob SquarePants sandwich keepers and a twenty-four-piece "My First Tupperware Set"—sized just right for smaller hands, \$15. Adult-size stuff is for sale there too. Trust me: no one ever has enough Tupperware.

You won't have time to sit for a self-portrait at the Portraits kiosk, so buy someone Al Pacino instead. Why Al? Apparently his 1983 cult film *Scarface* is enjoying something of a renaissance (Universal Studios just released a special twentieth-anniversary DVD edition), and this year, the portrait kiosk is your Pacino-as-Miami-drug-lord headquarters. There must be a dozen different framed portraits of Al as Tony Montana, in various poses and black-and-white or color, for \$23.

Nearby, BiggSports is your bobblehead sports doll headquarters. The big-name professional baseball, football, and hockey players go for \$20. Unsurprisingly to anyone who follows sports economics, the NBA bobbleheads go for more, starting at \$25. You can even get a bobblehead Santa in a New York Yankees jersey, also \$20.

At Cars of America, get a remote-control Twister car with a front end that swivels 360 degrees—it won't get stuck, and therefore you won't have to listen to your child's screams of frustration. If it runs into an obstacle, the front end spins, flips the car, and sends it racing off in another direction. The large model is \$35, the smaller version \$25.

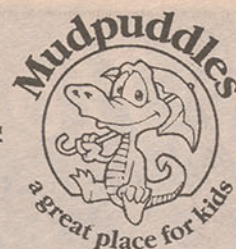
Finally, a last-minute gift you might find yourself unwrapping and using yourself before the night is out: an herbal aromatherapy heat bag from Nature's Creation. Fragrant with the natural scent of eleven different herbs (but not, alas, frankincense or myrrh), you simply pop the bag in the microwave for a minute and then wrap it around your neck, shoulders, or back. A little peace on earth, just \$12.



Maybe Santa will bring George Steinbrenner a new team this Christmas? The BiggSports kiosk at Briarwood serves all your bobblehead needs.

while fingering a cuff of a parent's shirt or sweater. If I'd bought him a Taggis baby blanket at White Rabbit, maybe I could've taught him how to go to sleep by himself by now. Made of deliciously soft cotton, the blankets are trimmed with tiny loops of ribbon in different textures, perfect for children who are calmed by the feel of something comforting. They're \$7-\$22.

Finally, for those who have left their shopping down to the wire and need to find



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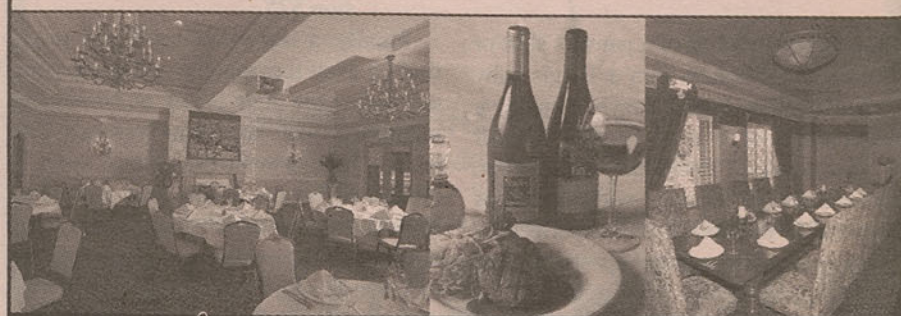
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RESTAURANTS

Eve

Imaginative

Before Eve opened, chef-owner Eve Aronoff ran an ad in the Observer for several months, saying little more than the restaurant's name and "coming soon." This is classic guerrilla marketing: repeating a name until it becomes a compelling curiosity. Given Aronoff's reputation as one of the forces behind Cafe Zola's eclectic dinner menu, enough inquiring minds already are flocking to the restaurant that getting a weekend reservation is becoming difficult.

Hardly a trace of the old Kerrytown Bistro remains except for the brick walls, and one of them is covered from floor to ceiling with white sheers. The minimalist decor is surprisingly cozy and romantic, partly because of lighting designed as carefully as for a theatrical stage. Diminutive vases with rosemary twigs adorn tabletops dressed in white linen, white dishes, and white votive candles. The setting is like a blank canvas, waiting to be filled with color and texture.

A nice way to begin that painting is the Moroccan-spiced giant scallops appetizer. Dusted in cumin, allspice, cayenne, and other Moroccan spices, four large panfried scallops come with small bowls of cool and refreshing carrot-lime puree and crème fraîche for dipping—a perfect combination. The seasonal roasted pumpkin tart is anything but timid, robustly flavored with blue cheese, caramelized onions, and a fiery Cajun smoked sausage.

Appetizers lend themselves to sharing. The cutting board is a nice assembly of cheeses from Big Ten Market and smoked meats from Tracklements Smokery. The fried seafood appetizer, which can be prepared for up to eight, comes with escargot-stuffed wontons, beer-battered shrimp, conch fritters, and Moroccan-spiced calamari, served with pleasantly assertive dipping sauces like cilantro-lime salsa and sweet chili mayonnaise.

You can also order half-size entrees as appetizers, and although there isn't an official kids' menu, children can order half-size meals for half the price. Aronoff says she particularly loves watching kids experiment with new foods, like lamb or figs.

Salads are fresh and imaginative. The smoked duck salad reveals Aronoff's passion for seasonal foods. Served with roasted pumpkin, apple, and pears, the stir-fried duck and the tangy-sweet combination of the fig-and-walnut dressing has almost as much going on as an episode of *Sex and the City*—and is almost as racy.

I don't wish to slight the other salads. The pan-seared gulf shrimp, served with seaweed delicately marinated in soy sauce and sesame oil, is jazzed up with chilies and lime; toasted macadamia nuts, shaved coconut, and dried pineapple, mangoes, and other fruits accessorize the mixed

greens, and the dressing is a spicy peanut vinaigrette. The flatiron salad is robust and flavorful, with balsamic-macerated cipollini onions, baby arugula, and blue cheese dressing.

While you wait for your entrees, a loaf of crusty white bread comes to the table. It's served on a cutting board; you slice it yourself and spread it with your choice of flavored butters—ours were herbed, smoked salmon, and guava.

No one at my table could resist dipping a spoon in the creamy sweet potato, pumpkin, and apple soup, dotted with gold raisins soaked in rum and crowned with curry cream. Soup this luxurious should be served in a silver bowl from Tiffany's.

I'm not a fan of Brussels sprouts, but never have they been in such good company as they are here: Eve serves them with pan-seared Taleggio cheese rolled in pine nuts and draped in a rich tomato-garlic cream sauce. The memory of this vegetarian dish is like a good movie that you keep revisiting in your mind long after it's over.

By now, so many places offer chicken roasted with lots of garlic and rosemary that it's become a cliché. Eve's burnished *poussin* is refreshingly different: half a spring chicken with her own Thai barbecue sauce, chilies, chopped peanuts, sherry, and tart tamarind. Served with shiitake orzo and seasonal vegetables, it beckons to be eaten slowly with eyes closed.

I'm also partial to the beef tenderloin—medallions topped with caramelized onions and silky warm Stilton. Served with port-macerated dried fruit and garlic mashed potatoes, this is a dish with personality. The Colorado lamb bridges contemporary and French traditional cooking: thin slices seared rare, rubbed with lavender and honey, are shored up with creamy garlic mashed potatoes and served with spicy kale greens. Aromatic Moroccan chicken packaged in little squares of phyllo with toasted almonds, another global comfort food, reminds me of *pastilla* without cinnamon and sugar. Eve's version uses candied lime alongside a fistful of spicy greens.

The salmon, with its macadamia-nut crust and a citrus-and-sour-cream sauce over coconut rice, was good, but a friend thought the acidity of the sauce masked the delicate flavor of the crust. For less adventurous tastes, the kitchen does offer "simple fish" or "simple beef" dinners. You choose the meat or fish from the evening's fresh offerings and specify the preparation and vegetable sides. It worked fine for a delicately flavored moonfish, which arrived lightly dusted and pan seared with fresh lime juice.



JOHN COPLEY

Servers can be harried on bustling weekends, but they remain enthusiastic and accommodating. Weeknights, the pace is quieter and more romantic. Aronoff has almost completed the work for her Master of Wine certification from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust of London—hence the thoughtful wine list.

Endings keep pace with the rest of the menu. The lemon bread pudding is zesty and robust, the chocolate pâté suitably decadent. Although there are other desserts, what remain most memorable to me are the complimentary sugared mint leaves we got on the nights we begged off on dessert. Special touches like that, and Aronoff's intuitive creativity, are going to secure a place for this newcomer in the hearts of locals.

—Elizabeth Méricas

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Jerusalem Garden

Middle Eastern lunch counter

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the eclectic clientele crowds in or resorts to carryout. No matter, since people aren't there for a luxurious meal. They are there to eat—quickly, deliciously, and cheaply—with a bit of Middle Eastern atmosphere thrown in.

More than half the menu here is vegetarian, including that Mediterranean staple, falafel (fried chickpea patties). Jerusalem Garden's biggest seller is a falafel sandwich with hummus: three fat falafel patties rolled in a pita with lettuce, tomatoes, hummus, and tahini (sesame seed paste). The falafel was superb: parsley, onions, and a hint of garlic livened up the chickpeas. However, hummus and tahini together on the sandwich made for a bit too much sauce—with each bite, the excess shot out the other side. The falafel sandwich is also available with no sauce at all, or dressed any number of ways: with baba ghanoush, tabbouleh, or yogurt and cucumber. Or you can go the other route and have a plain hummus sandwich with lettuce and tomato. I liked this last one best of all: its simplicity and fresh flavor made a satisfying lunch, and at \$3.25, it's an absolute steal.

The chicken shawarma had its fans and detractors. Strips of chicken breast are marinated, grilled, and wrapped in a pita with lettuce, pickles, tomatoes, and yogurt-garlic sauce. The sauce started a controversy at my table—some of my friends aren't happy unless their shawarma has enough garlic to make them feel like extras on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. However, I prefer Jerusalem Garden's lighter hand—the garlic wakes up the other flavors but doesn't obliterate them. The kibbe balls were everything good about a meatball, with bulgur wheat and spices providing the filler, and—again—a bit of garlic to add zest. The Jerusalem burger was the only sandwich I didn't care for, despite its interesting spices, as the meat patty was tough.

Of course, everything that can be wrapped in a pita can also be laid out on a platter. The entrees at Jerusalem Garden are simply variations of sandwich fillings, made into a meal by adding rice and salad. I wasn't crazy about either of the rice choices—a bland pilaf or the rice-lentil combo called *mjadarra*, which was dry and heavily scented with allspice. All six salad choices, though, were good, and some were great. I especially enjoyed the *fattoush*, a vegetable salad mixed with crunchy pita chips. The lemon juice and salt brightened up the fresh vegetables and made a nice counterpoint to the heavier meat entrees. The tabbouleh was heavy on the parsley, just the way I like it. The other four "salads" are really dips—all of them perfect for scooping onto the thin, tasty pita bread—and ranged from a so-so baba ghanoush to a fine hummus to a simple-yet-addictive yogurt and cucumber.

The baklava here is a tiny triangle, but with its intense sweetness, a tiny taste was all I needed. The other desserts are simple little bites, not too sweet, and perfect with a cup of coffee. Regular coffee is avail-



able, but don't miss the Turkish coffee. It comes in a metal urn and is espresso-strong, so lavishly spiced and sweetened that it could be a dessert itself.

As I sipped my tiny cup of coffee after an enjoyable meal, I felt completely content—proof that you don't need pampering to have a good time at a restaurant.

—Margaret Yang

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Quick Bites

On December 8, Metzger's Restaurant celebrates its **seventy-fifth anniversary** by offering 75 percent off on dinner specials. It's "our way of thanking the community," says Walter Metzger, seventy-seven. Three generations of Metzgers have worked the restaurant, first downtown and now in Baxter's Plaza on Zeeb.

In its early years Metzger's employed only three cooks, two dishwashers, and five servers, in addition to various family members who helped out. Servers were strictly female and mostly middle-aged, and often worked until retirement. These days the restaurant is managed by Walter's son and daughter, John and Heidi, and partner Joe Neely. It has a staff of fifty, but there are still a couple of twenty-year veterans. And that's not counting Walter, who still comes in once a week to visit with customers, many of whom are fourth-generation Metzger's patrons.

—E.M.

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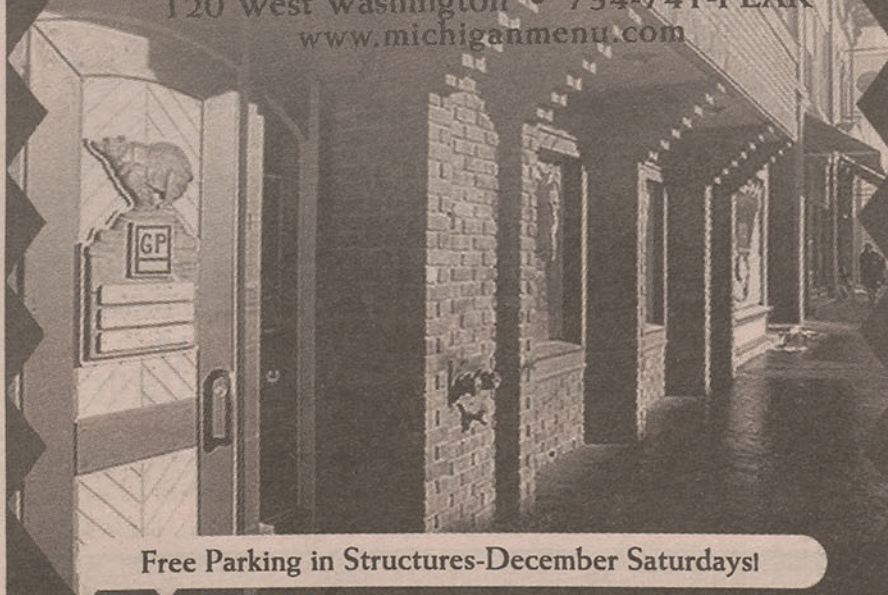
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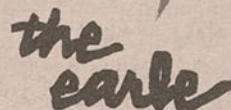
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MARKETPLACE

CHANGES

Something for everyone on the southeast side

Including a new Fleetwood and a pair of subcontinental groceries

Business is flourishing on the southeast side of town, where two Indian groceries, a Chinese restaurant, a broasted chicken take-out counter, a coffeehouse, and a second location for Ann Arbor's legendary Fleetwood Diner have all opened within months of each other.

The **Fleetwood Diner** at the corner of Liberty and Ashley has always looked like a retro roadside eatery. Now, there's finally a Fleetwood that really is one. Fleetwood co-owner George Fotiadis, who bought the downtown diner eleven years ago with Adi Demiri, has partnered with Sefit Ramani to open an east-side Fleetwood at the corner of Carpenter Road and Michigan Avenue, attached to a Marathon gas station. This is the second gas station restaurant for Fotiadis; he also owns a mini burger joint called the Pit Stop next to a station in Howell.

Ramani and Fotiadis converted what was once a Blimpie sub franchise into an art deco diner by putting in a new cooking line, complete with a massive stainless steel hood, a counter installed on an insouciant diagonal, generously sized booths, and lots of black-and-white tile. They also put in a new wall and entrance to separate themselves from the gas station—the only thing the two businesses still share is the restroom.

The new Fleetwood serves everything the original does, complete with legendary favorites like hippie hash (hash brown potatoes with grilled veggies and feta), tempeh omelets, pita sandwiches, burgers, patty melts, and gyros, plus turkey, corned beef, and veggie Reubens. The menu also offers some new items: two-egg omelets wrapped in lavash bread for breakfast on the go, plus submarine sandwiches. Everything comes in diner-size (read: oversize) portions, and nothing is over \$8. The most expensive item, a gyros platter, includes a small Greek salad, choice of potato, and coleslaw for \$7.25.

In attaching themselves to a gas station, Fotiadis and Ramani have created a wonderful time warp of a trip back to the middle of the twentieth century, when just about every highway gas station had an adjoining or nearby diner, roadhouse, or "dog wagon." They've also found that the combination has created a few unexpected



Sefit Ramani and George Fotiadis are partners in the new roadside Fleetwood.

obstacles. The Marathon station is bigger and more prominent; the Fleetwood, tucked around the side, is hard to see. Moreover, passersby unfamiliar with the Fleetwood name and reputation seem to assume that because it's attached to a gas station, the quality of the food will be limited at best. "I think people are expecting, I don't know, hot dogs in a wraparound bun

"We're not interested in making a bunch of Fleetwoods," Fotiadis says. "This just seemed like a great place to put one."

or something," Fotiadis says. "They're surprised to find out that the owner is there, doing the cooking, and that we serve full breakfasts, lunches, and dinners."

The partners are hoping that once the word gets out, the new Fleetwood will prove every bit as popular as the original—but that doesn't mean they've got big growth on their minds. "We're not interested in making a bunch of Fleetwoods," Fotiadis says. "This just seemed like a great place to put one."

Fleetwood Diner, 5511 West Michigan Avenue, 434-1873. Sun.-Thurs. 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri. & Sat. open 24 hours.

Other new businesses are sprouting up and down Carpenter Road. In the Arbor Meadows shopping center, on Carpenter just south of Michigan, Carol and Maniraj Gandham opened **Nilgiris Import Goods** last January. The South Asian grocery and import shop carries both items that will appeal primarily to Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi customers (like Bengali, Tel-

ugu, Tamil, and Malay videos and DVDs for rent, and *bindis*, the small red dots Indian women wear on their foreheads) as well as items with broader appeal: pretty bangle bracelets, soaps and shampoos, roasting pans, rice cookers, and herbal cosmetics.

Most of Nilgiris—the name means "blue mountain"—is given over to groceries, including masala mixes, plastic bags of vividly hued spices, frozen naan bread, samosa pastries, refrigerated chutneys and tamarind paste, and a large produce case bursting with sensually shaped Indian, Chinese, and Thai eggplants, fresh fenugreek and curry leaves, green mangoes, hairy coconuts, and jackfruit.

At the front, near the cash register, are brilliantly colored Indian robes, ready-to-eat foods made by a friend of the family, and a case of refrigerated exotic juices. Carol, who spends her days behind the register, is a warm and enthusiastic hostess, eager to help new customers negotiate the exotic inventory. Maniraj, by day a systems analyst for Detroit Edison, mans the counter evenings.

About a mile and a half north on Carpenter, in Arbor Square, Anu and Sashi Kumar have taken over **Desi Grocery**, a competing Indian import store with a similar inventory of packaged groceries, frozen entrees, fresh produce, and movie rentals. (*Desi* is a term by which an Indian would address a fellow countryman.) The Kumars found out through a friend of a friend that the store was for sale; when they saw the high-traffic location, Anu says, her first thought was to wonder why the previous owner was selling at all. "It turned out he had two stores [the other Desi Grocery is in Inkster] and he also has other businesses, consulting businesses," she says. "He started out well, but he didn't have time to spend here and couldn't maintain the inventory."

Anu has dedicated herself to turning the business around. She started out by re-



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MARKETPLACE CHANGES continued

arranging the store like a supermarket: baking needs and all the ingredients for sweets in one section, canned produce clustered together, snacks and drinks paired near the front. "In most Indian stores, one thing is here, one thing is somewhere else. It is confusing and depressing," Anu says. "I wanted a grocery store with style, designed for the user, where even if somebody comes here and doesn't buy anything, they should feel good."

The Kumars, whose family runs similar groceries in the northern Indian region of Punjab, hope to attract not only Indian customers but also Americans, even those unfamiliar with Indian culture. That's why Desi stocks so many frozen Indian entrees—an easy way, Anu figures, for novices to introduce themselves to the cuisine—and why many of the rental films have English subtitles. "Dinner and a movie—you can get a real Indian experience," Anu laughs. "And we don't do like Blockbuster. If you don't return it on time, we won't charge you extra."

Also in Arbor Square, Gabriella Rusu has added a carryout business called **Bennie's Broasted Chicken** to her catering company, Hunter's Harvest. Named for partner Dan Bennie, the take-out arm of the business offers broasted chicken as well as homemade potato, pasta, and macaroni salads, plus sandwiches and tossed salads made to order.

"Broasting," a somewhat unfamiliar term to the average home cook, means frying in a small amount of oil in a pressure cooker instead of an open pan. The result is a moist, flavorful chicken that cooks in about ten minutes, and retains much less oil than conventional fried chicken. Not only is Rusu able to cook chicken to order, but the intense heat of the pressure cooker means the food stays hot for as long as twenty-five minutes afterward, giving customers enough time to get their dinner home and on the table.

Although Rusu is happy to cook as many as 500 pieces of chicken for a take-out order (with advance notice), she says most people request between two and eight pieces. A four-piece chicken dinner with potatoes and rolls is \$6.50. Rusu recommends adding some coleslaw on the side—and is even willing to divulge the secret ingredients that make it such a winner. "It's sunflower seeds and dried cranberries," she says. "Everyone loves it."

Another mile north on Carpenter, at Bell Arbor Commons near Packard, a Chinese restaurant and a coffee shop have divided what used to be Play It Again Sports' east-side location. Local Chinese restaurant veterans Danthy Nguyen and Xianyou Ren opened **King Shing Chinese**

Food in mid-October. A small but attractive space accented by pink tile, turquoise chairs, neon tubing, and the sound and smell of stir-frying meat, King Shing offers a fairly standard menu of Chinese classics—fried rice, lo and chow meins, noodle dishes, egg foo yong, moo shu and stir-fried chicken, and pork, beef, seafood, and tofu entrees—plus a few unexpected items, like New York-style buffalo wings and squid sautéed with jalapeño. Lunches are an especially good deal: \$3.99 to \$5.25, they include white or pork-fried rice and a choice of wonton, egg drop, or hot-and-sour soup.

It's no accident that the name of Kheira Amrous's coffeehouse, **StarBean Coffee**, makes it sound like a certain West Coast chain: Amrous spent several years living in Seattle, where Starbucks Coffee is based. After moving to Michigan, Amrous started working as a hair stylist, first at Heidi's in Briarwood mall, and then at Jeffrey Michael Powers. She's pursued that trade for twenty-two years, since she was seventeen—but all the time she was cutting hair, she was also dreaming of opening her own coffee shop. "It's not about mon-

ey," she says. "This is what I love: coffee, and doing hair."

When the Bell Arbor space came on the market, Amrous decided to return to coffee for a while. A cousin, Khalid Ouili, who's in the construction business, helped design the shop, and the result is small but inviting, with melon and slate blue walls, metal and vinyl tables and chairs, and, near the front window, four comfy wingbacks separated by red-and-black coffee tables.

StarBean's opening menu included coffee drinks, pastries, soups, and pita sandwiches; Amrous plans to add crepes and sandwiches on French bread. A regular clientele is beginning to come around, and most customers, Amrous says, are grateful to find an Ann Arbor coffeehouse east of US-23.

Once the business is running successfully, Amrous hopes to return to her first love. "Hair and coffee—I can't stay away from these two things," she says. "I'm going to put some people in charge here and open my own hair shop, too."

Nilgiris Import Goods, 5563 Carpenter, 434-2454. Mon. noon-9 p.m., Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Desi Groceries, 4015 Carpenter (Arbor Square), 677-1688. Daily 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Bennie's Broasted Chicken, 4027 Carpenter (Arbor Square), 973-2666. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. noon-7 p.m.

King Shing Chinese Food, 2865 Carpenter (Bell Arbor Commons), 971-8999. Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-midnight, Sun. noon-11 p.m.

StarBean Coffee, 2871 Carpenter (Bell Arbor Commons), 975-0400. Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Closed Sun.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Nick's Circus

A flight of fancy on South First

If you're trying to come up with a theme for your latest nightspot and you're a cousin of the Ringling Brothers, can a bar with a circus tent canopy really be far behind? Not if you're antiques-dealer-turned-club-owner Nick Easton, whose club complex on First Street near Liberty includes the basement Cavern Club, the street-level Millennium Club, and now **Circus Bar & Billiards** on the building's second floor.

Scheduled to open by late November, Circus has been two years in the making. "There are a million details when you're doing new construction in an old building," Easton says. "Nothing was square, so everything had to be custom made. There are definitely points where you get discouraged and wonder how you're ever going to get to the end, but it pays to be persistent."

Easton knows firsthand the power of perseverance. In 1994 the teacher-turned-antiques-dealer bought a onetime brewery on First Street for his Antiques Marketplace. Looking for a way to use the building's cavernous lagering cellar, he stumbled upon the idea of opening a bar—and the ideal name for it. The Cavern Club was so much more profitable than dealing in antiques that before long, Easton gave up the antiques business altogether and became a full-time nightclub owner. "It's a new way of living, that's for sure," says Easton about his latest career switch. "But it's a lot of fun."

Designed by Ford Motor Company development artist Gary Markley, who also designed the Cavern Club's murals and the Millennium Club, Circus is a loving homage to all things big top, from a splendid mural depicting a midway sideshow—complete with sword swallower, fortune teller, fat lady, clown, and snake charmer—to the vintage Ringling Brothers circus posters on the opposite wall. The bar is a bright yellow semicircle crowned with a circus tent canopy. On the back



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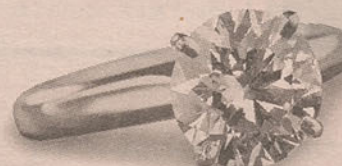


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wall, framed by liquor bottles, a stuffed African lion "jumps" toward drinkers through a flaming hoop of neon.

The other walls are sandblasted brick, accented by carved wooden animal heads—zebras, lions, tigers, giraffes, elephants—that call to mind the intricately crafted wooden horses on an old-fashioned carousel as much as they do a circus parade. There's also a reproduction Wurlitzer bubble-tube neon-lit jukebox, which provides the bar's only music.

Five beautiful oak pool tables, available by the hour, will provide the bar's main entertainment, supplemented by TVs, video games, and two new games from the Michigan Lottery, designed specifically for bars. The first, called Pull Tabs, looks something like a slot machine—pull the right slip of paper, and you can instantly win up to \$200. The second is Club Keno: every five minutes from 6 p.m. to 1:45 a.m., ten numbers will appear on one of Circus's TV screens. Players can win up to \$100,000 per game—or, far more likely, lose up to \$20.

Although Circus is primarily a bar and billiard parlor, there are a few munchies: popcorn, nachos, kosher hot dogs, and pizza by the slice. Although he wants to provide people with something to snack on, Easton isn't expecting people to come for the food. "I'm thinking during the day, this is going to appeal more to townies and people who live on the west side," he says. "At night, maybe those same people, plus people who are visiting Ann Arbor and are looking for something to do after dinner."

Circus Bar & Billiards, 210 South First, 913-8890. Daily 11 a.m.-2 a.m.

Superbed?

Ceragem's lofty claims

East of Carpenter on Washtenaw, sisters Tara McKinney and Renee Miller opened Ceragem Ann Arbor at the

end of August. According to McKinney, the Ceragem thermal acupressure massage beds they sell have restored her sister's eyesight, cured her own chronic sinus infection, and even gotten a Lansing man off the U-M congestive heart failure clinic's heart transplant list. She also cites countless other, less dramatic health benefits: weight loss, lowered cholesterol and blood pressure, stress reduction, pain relief. And here's the kicker: the sisters say they'll let anyone who's interested use a bed for forty minutes a day for free—for an unlimited number of days. "We ask only that they bring friends or tell friends. That's kind of their payment to us," says McKinney. "If they do that, we're thrilled every time they come in the door."

Her claims might sound extravagant, but McKinney is no fast-talking sharpster. A lean, tranquil woman with luminous light blue eyes, a low, calm voice, and a Ph.D. in comparative religion, McKinney is a Ceragem believer through personal experience. She was living in Ireland when her sister called from San Francisco to say she had a brain aneurysm—the same condition that had killed their father at age thirty-eight—and would need immediate surgery. McKinney flew back to the States, and while stopping to visit their mother in Lansing, tried a Ceragem bed there—she'd heard about it from a friend who had used it for pain relief from fibromyalgia. "I had had a chronic sinus condition that had pretty much destroyed my immune system. I had been so sick I couldn't work," she says. "But I could immediately tell that the [Ceragem bed] was really helping my sinuses—it was really cleaning them out."

McKinney was so impressed with the product that she recommended it to her sister when nerve damage after the surgery left Miller with loss of control over one eyelid and eye, and double vision. It was six weeks before doctors would okay the

McKinney says that Ceragem thermal acupressure massage beds have restored her sister's eyesight, cured her own chronic sinus infection, and even gotten a Lansing man off the U-M congestive heart failure clinic's heart transplant list.

use of the Ceragem bed, McKinney says, but once treatments started, the results were dramatic. "Within a week she could open the eye normally, and she had normal vision," McKinney says. "We decided the Ceragem was a good thing."

So good, in fact, that the sisters opened their own Ann Arbor dealership, where they sell the \$2,400 Ceragem Master, which uses jade rollers to administer a whole-body acupressure treatment while epoxy carbon panels generate deep, penetrating infrared heat. Designed and built in Korea, the Ceragem Master is intended to not only massage the spine but also align it and stretch it. Seen from a Western medical perspective, the heat would theoretically increase circulation, oxygen flow, and bone marrow production throughout the body, and the rollers would have a chiropractic effect on both muscles and spine. Seen from an Eastern—primarily Chinese—perspective, the infrared rays serve much the same function as acupuncture needles, correcting imbalances, restoring the body's

chi, and reducing energy blockages believed to cause disease. Ceragem is already attracting the attention of the local medical community, McKinney says, including one doctor who specializes in pain relief and has begun to recommend Ceragem Master treatments to his patients. People who want to use the demonstrator beds can do so without an appointment—although they might have to wait for one to become available. On one mid-October weekday afternoon, there were three people reclining peacefully on beds while wearing eye masks and listening to classical music, including a repeat visitor who said she'd driven an hour just to get there. One of them, a first-time customer, said afterward, "It felt good. My back cracked three times, like I had a chiropractic adjustment. I'm going to tell my wife about it. I think she'll want to come in, too."

Ceragem Ann Arbor, 4743 Washtenaw Avenue (Glencoe Crossing Shopping Center), 434-6666. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Closed Sun.

Briefly Noted

Just a month after Whole Foods closed its Lamp Post Plaza and Plymouth Mall stores and opened a new superstore on Washtenaw, the old locations were already spoken for—and by similar businesses. Trader Joe's, a self-described "unique grocery store chain with foods from the exotic to the basic," will be taking over the Lamp Post Plaza spot. In December a new store called Bello Vino will be opening in the former Merchant of Vino space on Plymouth Road. The store will carry upscale gourmet foods, including meats, seafood,



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MARKETPLACE CHANGES continued

produce, a deli selection, and a big wine department. Sound a lot like the Merchant of Vino? It should. One of Bello Vino's owners, Mark Garmo, is a cousin of the Jonna family—the people who opened the Merchant of Vino in the first place.

Garmo, whose own immediate family owns a chain of smaller gourmet food stores in the Detroit area, is up front about the similarity between his cousins' former store and the grocery he plans to open with partner Lou Ferris. "We want to capture what the Merchant of Vino was doing," he says. "We want to make the people of Ann Arbor happy and give them back what they were used to when the Merchant of Vino was here."

Unlike the Merchant, Bello Vino won't be subleasing its deli, produce, and other departments to local vendors, because the Garmos would rather keep the entire store in the family. Certainly, it's a family with plenty of experience. Garmo's father opened his first store in 1972 and now owns stores in Southfield, Grosse Pointe, Westland, and Detroit. "I grew up in the business," Garmo says. "I've worked it all my life."

Bello Vino Fine Foods, 2789 Plymouth Road (Plymouth Mall), 213-0303. Mon.—Sat. 9 a.m.—10 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.—9 p.m.

Bangkok-based restaurant chain Bua broke into the U.S. market in October with the opening of Lotus Thai Restaurant in the former Beijing Restaurant space in Oak Valley Centre. Owner Kantris "Ike" Tmangraksat and his silent partners, who had friends in Ann Arbor, translated the restaurant's name for a market where most people don't speak Thai, but they made no other concessions: the sixty-item menu is a distillation of the same selections served at the chain's twelve Bangkok locations.

At just sixty-four seats, Lotus is by far the smallest restaurant in the chain, which includes at least one 400-seat giant, but it's as stylish as even the largest of them, thanks to the sophisticated decor that the architect and designer in Bangkok has provided. The focus of the subtly lit, sophisticated dining room is a contemporary mural of four perfect lotus blossoms on the back wall. Opposite the entrance, a blond-wood-and-brushed-steel bar awaits Lotus's liquor license, expected to be approved within the next two months.

In the meantime, guests can quaff Thai iced coffee, tea, latte, or lime soda while sampling what the menu calls the restaurant's "signature dishes," including crisp-fried duck in a tamarind-coffee sauce (\$16), lobster tail in Thai black bean sauce (\$19), fried chicken with lemongrass and Kaffir lime leaves (\$12.50), and shrimp, scallops, and sea bass sautéed with corn, Kaffir lime leaves, chili, basil, and tropical crocus (\$18).

The rest of the menu is more moderately priced but sounds equally delicious: a Thai-style omelet with crabmeat and basil leaves (\$8.50), beef or chicken with coconut milk and eggplant in a green curry

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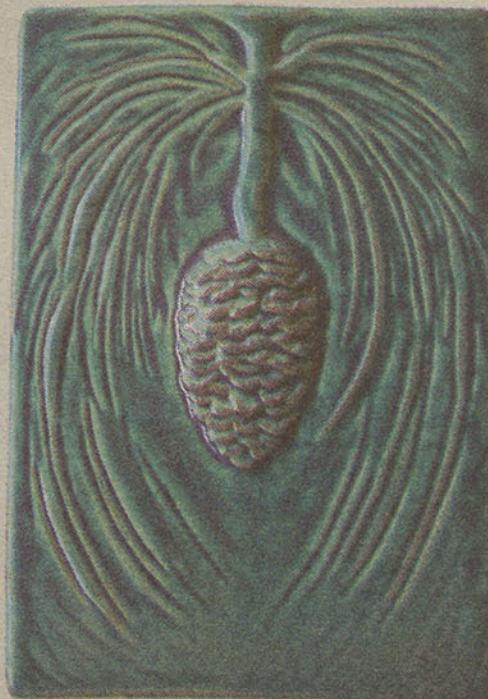
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sauce (\$10.50), Thai-style barbecued chicken (\$11.50). All of the dishes feature locally bought produce and fresh herbs and seasonings. "We really concentrate on fresh herbs for the best flavor," says Tmangraksat, who is staying in Ann Arbor until January to make sure the company's newest restaurant runs smoothly. "We want to introduce the authentic taste of Thailand to Ann Arbor."

Lotus Thai Restaurant, 2803 Oak Valley Drive (Oak Valley Centre), 668-2828. Sun.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. & 4:30-9:30 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m.

When Julia and Jim Simpson closed Braun Agriservice on Whitmore Lake Road, they said there just simply weren't enough farmers left to support their grain elevator and agricultural products business. Ed Reaume, from whom they leased the Whitmore Lake property, says they were right. That's why when he reopened the store as **Ann Arbor Agri-Center** in October, he made immediate plans to expand the business to include birdseed, horse feed and other equine supplies, lawn care products, and rock salt. The Simpsons "were nice people, they did a great job, and they were great tenants," he says. "But the agriculture business isn't what it used to be, and that's what they were interested in."

As for himself, Reaume says, he just likes retail, period—and he's particularly enjoying being behind a sales counter again after a ten-year hiatus during which he ran his industrial chemical and trucking businesses and the Simpsons looked after the shop. "I've been doing this for forty years," he says. "I like what I do, and I do what I like."

Ann Arbor Agri-Center, 4175 Whitmore Lake Road, 662-9400. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Sun.

Designer women's wear is back by popular demand at **Renaissance**, the upscale Main Street clothier best known for its elegant, European-made men's tailored suits. Owner Roger Pothus, who moved the clothing boutique from its longtime location on Maynard to Main Street six years ago, says many of his male customers come in with wives and girlfriends, who have been telling him they want the same quality apparel and custom tailoring for themselves. "Besides," says Pothus, with tongue not entirely in cheek, "we did women's [clothing] many, many years ago, and those things are finally wearing out."

The store's new women's wear will feature top European designers like Vestimenta, Angelo della Croce, Margon,

Zanella, and Maria di Ripabianca. The focus is on silk and cashmere blends, fine-gauge wools, baby angora, and merino knits. Women will be able to special-order jackets, skirts, and dresses in twenty different styles and twenty different colors of wool crepe.

Pothus, who's been dabbling in a "backroom" business in women's clothing for about six months while waiting for the custom lines to come in, says most of his female clients are business professionals with little free time who tend to shop like men: they make appointments ahead of time, so that the store can select what they'd like to see. "Our concentration is on tailored clothing, because for this customer, that's where the interest is," Pothus says. "We have the advantage of having thirty years in men's tailored clothing. You can get a fit here like you can't get anywhere else."

Renaissance is also adding an American-made line to its inventory for the first time in many years: Hickey Freeman, which specializes in three-week "made to measure" clothing that, while not truly custom-made,

nonetheless offers fabric choices and some degree of customization in stylish designs loosely based on apparel from the 1930s and 1940s. Pothus says he's offering the line not only because the clothing appeals to men who like European styling but prefer to buy domestic products, but also because Renaissance has been able to pick up a number of Hickey Freeman customers left behind by the closing of Jacobson's department store.

December begins the thirty-third year in business for Renaissance, which has gone from what Pothus describes as a "men's bell-bottom boutique" to a "destination clothier that routinely draws customers from as far as New York, California, and points beyond." Interestingly, Renaissance got its start as a tenant of Maynard House, a location that launched two other long-lived Ann Arbor businesses: Borders Books and Bivouac.

Renaissance, 350 South Main, 769-8511. Mon. & Tues. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Wed. & Thurs. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. noon-4 p.m.

When Gregory Pierce was tired after a long day of practicing law at Detroit's Renaissance Center, he'd fortify himself with a bowl of soup from **Zoup!**, a restaurant in the building's lobby. When he realized he was tired of practicing law, period, he started looking at the restaurant more closely. "It was different than anything else I'd seen," he says. "It wasn't fast food, and it wasn't a sit-down—it was in this growing new category called 'fast casual.' I thought it would be a good fit for me." ♦

Renaissance's new women's wear will feature top European designers like Vestimenta, Angelo della Croce, Margon, Zanella, and Maria di Ripabianca. The focus is on silk and cashmere blends, fine-gauge wools, baby angora, and merino knits.



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MARKETPLACE CHANGES continued

Pierce was sold on the idea of opening a Zoup! franchise, but he had to sell the company's Ferndale-based founders, Eric Ersher and David Elias, on the idea first. It was a full year before the men came to an agreement, but by that time, Pierce was ready to make the leap. After finding a location he loved in Ann Arbor's Traver Village, he quit his job with the law firm and threw himself into getting the store ready to open. "I looked at a lot of different locations, but it wasn't until I got out to Ann Arbor that it just felt right," he says. "My long-term goal is to have more than one store—and most likely more than one in Ann Arbor."

Under construction in the old Kitchen Port space, Zoup! will seat around seventy people and also offer carryout service. Pick-up can be expedited by ordering and even paying ahead of time on-line at zoup.com. Customers can also request e-mail updates of the daily soups with links to the on-line order form.

Zoup! selects its dozen or so daily soups from over 200 recipes, including chicken barley, mushroom bisque, shrimp and corn chowder, steak and potato, and several varieties of chili. Each day's offerings typically include low-fat, vegetarian, dairy-free, and extra-spicy options. Soups range in size from an eight-ounce side dish to an extra-large thirty-two-ounce for sharing, and come with a choice of sourdough or whole-grain bread. The restaurant also offers sandwiches and made-to-order salads.

Even though Pierce will be commuting from Novi (he recently bought a house there and doesn't want to uproot his teenage kids), he plans to be at the new store most of the time until things are up and running smoothly. After that, it's onward and upward. "The plan is to get it going, get some good, quality people, and then move on and start with the next one," he says.

Zoup!, 2619 Plymouth Road (Traver Village), phone not available at press time. Probable hours Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. hours still under consideration.

The former Custom Sound car audio store on Stadium has a new owner—but not an unfamiliar one. Shannon Shahan, who worked for former Custom Sound owner Bill Eddy for six years, has opened Toys with Noise in the same spot. It's the second store for Shahan—he opened his first in Brighton after Eddy sold Custom Sound to Ron Thorsen. "I just didn't like the guy, and I didn't like his business practices," says Shahan of Thorsen. "So I left and started my own place."

When Thorsen went out of business a few months ago, Shahan was only too happy to take over the space. He had kept in touch with his old boss, Eddy, who had

gone on to open a cell-phone store called Custom Communications. In fact, Shahan is selling Eddy's cellular phones and accessories at the new store.

Shahan says Toys with Noise is basically Custom Sound as he remembers it, with the addition of new products that have come on the market in the intervening six years as well as an expanded emphasis on nonelectronic car and truck accessories, including vinyl graphics, window tinting, and custom wheels. Eventually Shahan wants to be able to customize just about any kind of transportation: motorcycles, boats, mopeds, even Jet Skis.

The two hottest items right now are satellite radios and in-car video and DVD players. "We can do multizone stuff, with different players for two or three different kids, so no one's fighting over what they want to watch," Shahan says. "We've even done cars with ten monitors, although

at that point, it's obviously more about making a statement than practicality."

Ten-monitor purchasers are doubtless among Shahan's celebrity customers. Shahan says he won't say what he's installed in celebrity vehicles, out of respect for his customers' privacy, but he will name names with their permission, including former U-M football players Charles Woodson (now with the Raiders) and David Terrell (now with the Bears). "We do a lot of prototype vehicles for GM and Ford, as well as a lot of pro athletes," Shahan says, "including some I can't mention because they don't necessarily want the PR."

Toys with Noise, 2055 West Stadium Boulevard, 663-4100. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Sun.

Pharmacist Xavier Tato believes that independently owned drugstores are poised to make a comeback—and he's putting his money where his mouth is by opening Stadium Pharmacy in the space formerly occupied by his uncle's convenience store, Stadium Party Shoppe, which recently moved next door. Tato, who graduated from the University of Michigan last year with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, had been interested in the West Stadium Shopping Center ever since Saint Joseph Mercy (formerly Catherine McAuley) Health System closed its satellite pharmacy there last year. "I actually interned at McAuley's for about a month during my rotation at school," he says. "People loved going there. It was so convenient."

Convenient it may have been, but it didn't produce enough customers for the hospital. As an independent, though, Tato believes he can succeed where his larger competitor failed. His inventory includes some sundries—plastic clothes hangers, note pads, cosmetics—and even more health aids. Like his predecessor, Tato is putting a special emphasis on durable medical equipment—canes, crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, shower stools—and

he's also widened the store's aisles considerably to better accommodate handicapped customers.

Unlike some of his neighboring competitors, like CVS, Rite-Aid, and Village Pharmacy II, Tato doesn't plan to stock grocery items or alcohol, in large part because he wants his store to concentrate on health and wellness, not convenience items. The other reason, however, is personal. "I don't think my uncle would like it," he laughs.

Stadium Pharmacy, 1930 West Stadium Boulevard, 222-0280. Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Sun.

•••••

In the Westgate Shopping Center, Jalal and Initsar Shalabi have renamed the former Jeannie's Coffee and Chitchat, which they purchased from founder Jeannie Lancaster last December (Marketplace Changes, March 2003). The coffee shop, whose menu has been expanded to include pita roll-ups and other Middle Eastern items, is now **Star's Cafe**.

•••••

An In the Works item last month got the name wrong for the new pizza-and-hoagie chain that's under development on Washington near Fifth Avenue: it's **Mel-low Mushroom**.

Closings

At the end of November, just a year after moving her clothing and gifts boutique, **The Step Above**, from Chelsea to Ann Arbor's Market Place Building near Kerrytown, Kathy Kenney will be on the move again—this time to Boulder, Colorado. "My parents are there, and we always knew we were going to move west," Kenney says. "We just didn't think it would be this soon." Kenney and her husband had moved both family and business to Ann Arbor so that their youngest daughter, Kelly, wouldn't have to commute from Chelsea to Washtenaw Technical Middle College. Now that Kelly's done, she'll be looking for a college in Colorado, as will her older sister, Erin. "It's all happening pretty fast," says Kenney, "but we're happy."

•••••

When Fenton-based Jim & Harry, Inc., opened a **Fazoli's** franchise on West Stadium four years ago, both men were enthusiastic about the growing chain—as was Leo Fox, Fazoli's landlord. Fox, who also owns neighboring health food store Arbor Farms, had bought the property because it was right next door and he thought he might use it someday to expand his own business (as it turns out, he's moving Arbor Farms to a new, bigger spot in the former Farmer Jack instead). He was ambivalent about renting to any fast-food business—even though the building was already outfitted for a fast-food kitchen from its days as a Boston Market, and Fox believed it was



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MARKETPLACE CHANGES *continued*

probably the building's best use—but Fazoli's seemed like a good compromise. At least it sold baked pasta dishes and pizza instead of fried beef and potatoes.

Just a year after opening, however, Fazoli's was already losing money. Maybe it was the competition from other Stadium Boulevard businesses; maybe it was the ill-conceived drive-through, which offered customers the convenience of not having to get out of their cars, but still meant a good ten-minute wait in the parking lot for someone to run out an order. Either way, Jim (or maybe it was Harry) called Fox and told him they were going to turn the place into an Arby's, which is what they owned in Fenton. Fox wasn't very enthusiastic, so he was relieved when Harry (or maybe it was Jim) called back and said they were selling the business to another—more successful—Fazoli's franchisee instead.

Fazoli's reprieve was short-lived. "I talked to the new owner around the beginning of the year and asked him if he was going to renew, and he said that if I'd asked him six months ago, he'd have said no, but now he had turned a corner and everything was looking good," Fox says. "The next time I heard from him," in mid-October, "he called and said, 'We're closing Sunday.'"

Fox says there's been interest in the building already, but he's not sure whether he's going to lease it right away, or wait until Arbor Farms vacates its building and then try to market the properties together.

Less than a year after opening **Aladdin's Mediterranean Cuisine & Juice Bar**, Ahmad Ahmad shuttered his Main Street eatery and put a sign in the window that read, "Closed for remodeling." In early October, Joe Kouza, whose family owns Aladdin's building as well as the Heidelberg and the Main Street Party Shoppe, would only say that the situation was "a mess" and that he didn't know how it was going to turn out. By the end of the month, Kouza was no longer returning messages, but a new sign in Aladdin's window told the mess's outcome: "For lease."

Also gone: **Leo's Coney Island**, on the ground floor of University Towers on South U, and "cookie bouquet" vendor **Cookies by Design** on West Stadium.

—Laura McReynolds

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the Observer Changes column had ten new businesses to report. Five of them were eating places, and four of those are still around today: two serving the cuisines of the owners' exotic homelands (Beverly Taylor-Glaza and Mike Glaza's **Bev's Caribbean Kitchen** on Packard, and

Ayse Uras's Turkish **Ayse's Courtyard Cafe** in the Courtyard Shops on Plymouth), and two cooking closer to home (**Mark's Midtown Coney Island**, also on Plymouth, and **Angelo's on the Side**, on Catherine). **Pictures Plus** on West Stadium is still selling picture frames, framed prints, and gifts; and **Barnes & Noble Booksellers** remains at Huron Parkway and Washtenaw, but in a monumental new structure a few hundred feet north. The four closures: former Wolverine head football coach Glenn Schembechler's **Bo's Steakhouse**, on Boardwalk; women's used-clothing store **Annie in the Attic**, in the Goodyear Building on Main; the Art Connection's gallery **Accessible Art**, on Ashley; and **Flowers on the Parkway**, in Oak Valley Centre.

December 1993 survival rate: 60 percent

Five years ago this month, the big news in retail and restaurants was the settling dust from the collapse of **Schoolkids' Records** a few months earlier. Jim Leonard was adding two new stores, **SKR Pop & Rock** and **SKR Blues & Jazz**, next to his SKR Classical on Liberty. All three were slain by changes in the ways folks, especially young folks, acquire recorded music. However, **Schoolkids' Records in Exile**, begun by Schoolkids' founder Steve Bergman, is still open on State. The other openings: the short-lived Beatles-themed restaurant **Lonely Hearts Club**, whose space is still occupied by an eatery, the soon-to-be-opened **Shalimar Indian restaurant** (so, by our rules, that's a survival); **Vault of Midnight Comix**, which has moved from Fourth Avenue to Liberty Street; and **DaVinci's pizza**, on Ann, since renamed (though after the same Renaissance man) **Leonardo's**.

December 1998 survival rate: 67 percent

One year ago this month, Marketplace Changes reported several changes of location and ownership but only four brand-new businesses. Nina Juergens's **Acme Mercantile**, selling convenience-store goods and a vast number of other "useful" things, and the **Tabor Hill Wine Tasting Room & Gallery**, both on Liberty just west of Main, are still here to celebrate their anniversaries, as is Ali Jamshidi's **Roadrunner** restaurant near Briarwood. But the boutique **The Step Above**, which moved from Chelsea to Market Place just a year ago, is uprooting again (see Closings, above).

December 2002 survival rate: 75 percent

—Paul R. Schwankl

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The Zingerman's® Times

Vol. 6 no. 12

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December 2003

Printed in Ann Arbor

Land of a thousand flavors

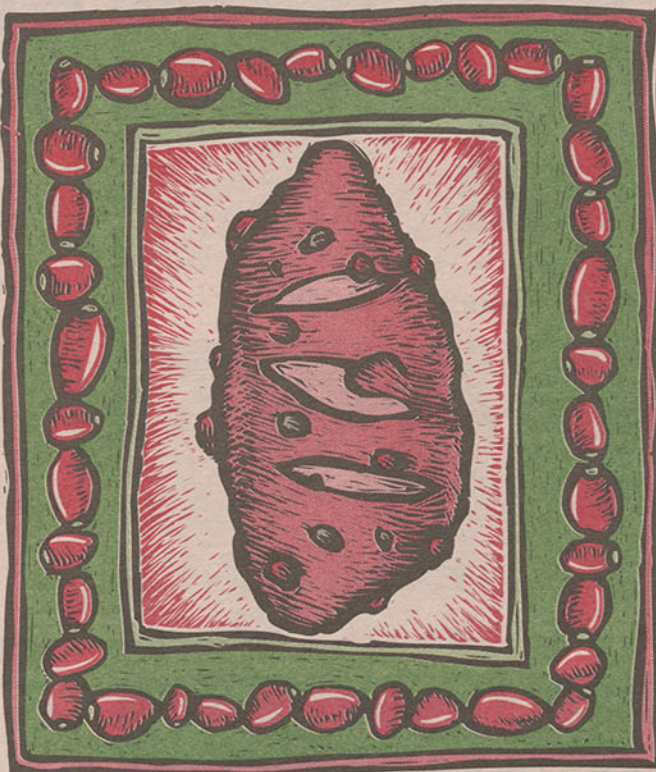
Zingerman's food gifts fly out of ann arbor

Creamery Crafting Tasty Goat Cheese

Times reporters have determined that the source of some of this country's best artisan goat cheese is right in the Ann Arbor area. Zingerman's Creamery in Manchester, MI, is reportedly making three goat cheeses: an ultra-fresh, super-smooth Goat Cream Cheese; discs of fresh goat cheese called Just One Goat; and logs of moderately mature goat cheese called Aged Chelseas. All the cheeses are made using traditional hand-ladling techniques, which accounts for their super creamy texture. Judy Schadt, the nationally known goat cheese maker from Capriole Cheese in southern Indiana raved, "I think the new goat cheeses are totally wonderful. You won't need mine or anyone's if John keeps this up. The ripened Chelsea logs were perfect—fudgy, dense wonderful." The cheeses are apparently available at Zingerman's Bakehouse Bakeshop and Zingerman's Delicatessen, and through Zingerman's Mail Order all over North America.

cranberry pecan bread from the bakehouse warms up winter mornings

Times surveys indicate that this special bread has become one of the country's most popular gifts for lovers of fine food. "Some folks are still happy with fruit cake," said mail order expert Tony Cox from his home in Dallas. "But more and more we're seeing how many people are interested in great breads like this one." What makes it so special? "It's got over half a pound of pecans and dried cranberries in every loaf," reports Frank Carollo, one of the Bakehouse's managing partners. "And," he added, "there's no sugar added." *Times* tasters have reported that these loaves are dense, intense and will easily last for days. "They make terrific toast and they've become quite the Christmas morning tradition in our house," said one customer who eagerly awaits the bread's return each year. Call Zingerman's Mail Order at 888.636.8162 to ship a loaf today.



Order a loaf for yourself, or have it shipped! Log onto www.zingermans.com.

New Book Changing the Way People Buy Food

Times literary correspondents have learned that Zingerman's *Guide to Good Eating*, by Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzwieg, is gaining national acclaim in both book- and food-loving circles. Part cookbook, part storybook, but mostly a lot of fun, it's available at the Deli and through Mail Order. Splendid Table host Lynne Rossetto Kasper raved to *Times* staff, "This is a book for all who love to eat. Your copy will end up just like mine, dog-eared and stained, always the sign of a keeper."

Extra, Extra! The Deli and Bakeshop will be open on New Year's Day!!

inside Zingerman's

Zingerman's Roadhouse	2501 Jackson Rd. 663.FOOD
Zingerman's Delicatessen	422 Detroit St. 663.DELI
Zingerman's Bakehouse	3711 Plaza Dr. 761.2095
Zingerman's Catering	422 Detroit St. 663.3400
Zingerman's Events	422 Detroit St. 663.9215
Zingerman's Mail Order	422 Detroit St. 888.636.8162
ZingTRAIN	PO Box 1837 930.1919
Zingerman's Creamery	Manchester, MI 665.1901

www.Zingermans.com

Cold-Pressed Riesling Grapeseed Oil

What makes this oil so special? The important factor is the flavor. It's "intensely aromatic and impressively flavorful, completely different than any other grapeseed oils, which tend to be uninteresting," said Jeff Pillars, a tasting specialist at the Deli. "It's slightly spicy, almost wine-like, with a really nice big, round flavor that's reminiscent of just-cut autumn apples." *Times* correspondents based in Germany report that the oil is made exclusively from the seeds of celebrated varietal Riesling grapes in the town of Trittenheim. The seeds are dried, then pressed: It takes 50 kilos of grape seeds to get a single liter of the oil. *Times* test kitchen experts report that you can use it on fish, pork, vegetables, salad, or any way you'd use a great extra virgin olive oil. It's at its best when you drizzle some over a dish right before serving so the heat from the meat, fish, vegetables or whatever releases the wonderful floral notes of the oil.



Colatura—Secret Fish Sauce of Southern Italy

The *Times* has unearthed the fact that a very rare specialty of the Italian region of the Amalfi is surprisingly available in Ann Arbor. Response to this special sauce has been incredible. Hundreds of bottles of it have been shipped to anchovy lovers all over North America from Zingerman's Mail Order HQ. Colatura is the juice that's drained from the barrels in which traditional anchovies are cured. Even in Italy, it's little known outside its hometown of Cetara, where the *Times* has learned it's especially popular during the holidays. Writing in the *NY Times*, Melissa Clark reported that, "Everyone in the Cetara area still eats Colatura, especially on Christmas Eve, when it is tossed with garlic and olive oil on pasta. That is the dish I remember, robust and garlicky, slippery with good, fruity oil, spiced with red pepper flakes and tinged with the scent of the sea—saline, a little fishy and very complex. The Colatura not only added its own taste but also brought out the flavors of all the others and unified the dish." *Times* Italian Bureau correspondents tell us that Colatura is also terrific drizzled over potatoes, fish or wilted greens.



To order these or any Zingerman's products, call Mail Order at 888.636.8162.

Great Lakes Muse

William Sommer American, 1876 - 1949, The Abner Hutch, 1913
oil on board, 26 x 20 inches. On permanent loan from The Isabel Foundation



American Scene Painting in the Upper Midwest 1910 - 1960

The paintings presented in this exhibition reflect the challenges in America during the first half of the 20th century and celebrates localism by embracing the diversity of the Great Lakes region.

Works by artists from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin are included.

November 16, 2003 - February 1, 2004

Flint Institute of Arts
1120 E. Kearsley Street ~ Flint, MI 48503
810-234-1695 ~ www.flintarts.org

Sponsored by The Isabel Foundation, Michael Hall and Patricia Glascock, and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts

The University of Michigan

museum of art



family event

Sunday, December 7, 1 to 5 pm, Museum Apse and galleries

3 pm Performance

Bichini Bia Congo Dance Theater and Mbongi Dance Theater Project bring the music and dance of central Africa to the Museum's Apse in a free performance. Seating is limited.

1 to 5 pm

Family visitors are invited to tour the African gallery and do a drop-in, hands-on art project.

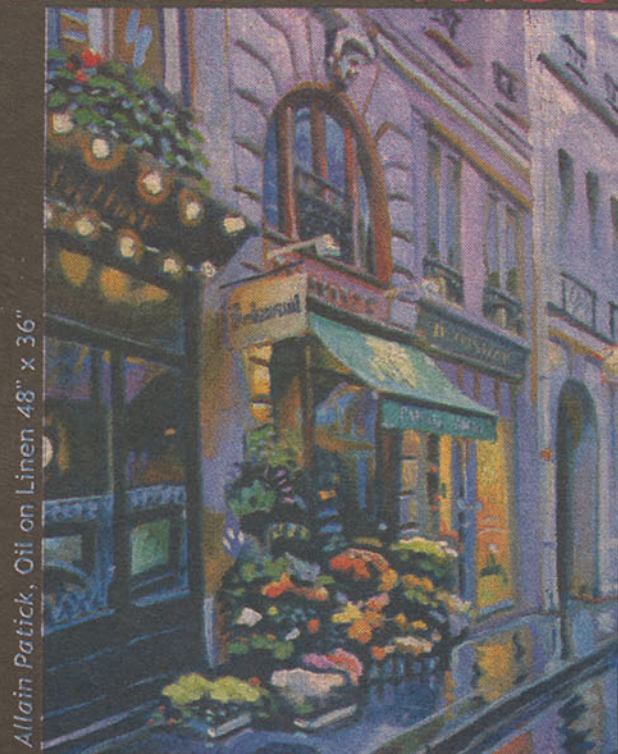
This UMMA family programming is made possible by support from MCACA, Target Corporation and the Friends of the Museum.



525 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 734.763.UMMA
Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm; Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm; Sunday, noon to 5 pm
www.umma.umich.edu

Mask, 20th century, Eastern Pende, wood, Lent by Ellen and William Kahn

Other Places



Allain Patick, Oil on Linen 48" x 36"

Fifty New Paintings by Greg Sobran

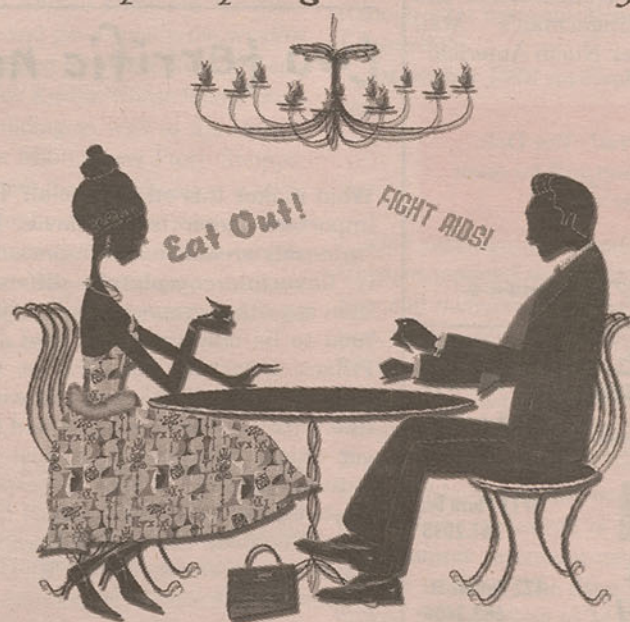
Opening Saturday, Dec. 6th through Sunday, Dec. 21st
Hours Daily 11-8

New oils and watercolors from recent trips to Venice, Tuscany, Nice, Paris, the Caribbean and Northern Michigan
Studio located on the corner of W. Ellsworth and Wagner Rds.,
Two miles South of Ann Arbor. 734-996-0406

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Dine Out Ann Arbor

Eat out at a participating restaurant on Friday, Dec. 5



A portion of the proceeds will benefit
Midwest AIDS Prevention Project

Call 248.545.1435 or visit www.dineoutmichigan.org
for a list of restaurants

presented by **metrotimes**

Honorary Host:
FOX2 WJBK News' Lee Thomas

FOX2

HMG

WDET

Current

S

Midwest AIDS

Ann Arbor Observer

Ann Arbor Observer

Ann Arbor Observer

Ann Arbor Observer

DECEMBER EVENTS

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375 or 769-4950.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:

The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at arborweb: www.arborweb.com. This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

* Denotes no admission charge.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 MONDAY

***Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** Every Monday. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. Leslie Austin directs. 10-11:30 a.m., West Side Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free (\$45 per semester membership dues). 663-5907.

***Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** Every Monday. Activities begin at 11 a.m. with "Fitness Fun" (\$3), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. The weekly program also includes meetings of the Writing Group (1-3 p.m.) and chess (1-3 p.m.). All invited. 11 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

U-M Club of Ann Arbor. December 1, 8, & 15. Kickoff luncheon for the club's weekly lunchtime talks by U-M football coach Lloyd Carr and by guest coaches that include men's gymnastics coach Mike Burns (today), men's tennis coach Mike Mees (December 8), and diving coach Chris Bergere (December 15). 11:15 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. \$9 (seniors, \$8.50). 663-7420.

***Carillon Concert: U-M School of Music.** Every weekday through December 10. All invited to watch a carillonneur play the heaviest musical instrument in Washtenaw County, Burton Tower's set of 55 English bells, the largest of which weighs 12 tons. Noon, Burton Tower, Ingalls Mall, 881 North University. Free. 764-0583.

***Bridge Group: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Every Monday & Friday except December 26. All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9350.

***Carillon Concert: U-M School of Music.** Every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday through December 10. All invited to peek in the playing room while a carillonneur plays Lurie Tower's



Scrooge Tells All, Dec. 8-10



Nick Gaza, Dec. 11-13

GALLERIES

102 EXHIBIT OPENINGS

Laura Bartlett

102 GALLERY REVIEW
Max Klinger's prints

Laura Bartlett

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

107 NIGHTSPOTS SCHEDULE

John Hinchey

107 NIGHTSPOTS REVIEW
Gregory Stovetop

Stephanie Kadel-Taras

EVENTS REVIEWS

88 VOX

Christmas music

James Leonard

91 NICHOLAS DELBANCO

Memory and fiction

Keith Taylor

93 MIKE MARSHALL AND CHRIS THILE

Extreme mandolins

James M. Manheim

97 JANE SIBERRY

Soulful

Erick Trickey

98 THE GOOD DOCTOR

Chekhov on Prozac

Sonia Kovacs

128 EVENTS AT A GLANCE



The Secret Garden, Dec. 4-6



Murder in the Cathedral, Dec. 4-6

prized set of 60 Dutch bells, which produce a bright, sparkly sound—even the 6-ton leviathan—typical of Holland's world-famous carillons. 1:30 p.m., Lurie Tower, 1230 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764-0583.

***"Judo, Jujitsu, & Self-Defense": A.C.E. Academy of Martial Arts.** Local sensei Dan Powers offers beginners an easy, fun introduction to these martial arts and self-defense skills. Wear loose-fitting or gym clothes. 4 p.m. (kids) & 6:30 p.m. (adults), A.C.E. Academy of Martial Arts, 749 Airport Blvd., Suite 3. Free. 645-7069.

***"15th Annual Day With(out) Art": U-M Museum of Art.** Poetry reading by local poets Keith Taylor and Aaron McKullough and local dance luminary Peter Sparling. In conjunction with World AIDS Day, "Day Without Art" acknowledges the impact of AIDS on the international arts community. 5 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-UMMA.

***Steven Holl: U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning Guido Binda Lecture.** Talk by this New York City architect, whose sleek, classically informed designs include an elegant Y-shaped house that looks like a heron about to take off. 6 p.m., Art & Architecture auditorium, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764-1300.

***"Human Exploration and Settlement of Mars": Michigan Mars Society.** Talk by a club member TBA. 6:30 p.m., 1024 FXB, 1320 Beal, North Campus. Free. 222-9423.

***The Buyer's Agent.** December 1 & 15. Real estate professionals lead discussions on first-time home buying. Today: "Buying a Home Without Losing Your Shirt." Also this month: "All about Mortgages for First-Time Buyers" (December 15). 7-8:30 p.m., The Buyer's Agent, 1900 W. Stadium. Free. Preregistration required. 662-6240.

***Avis Farms Toastmasters.** December 1, 15, & 29. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. 7-9 p.m., 900 Avis Dr., conference room B, off S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: \$18 every 6 months (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 332-1200.

***Mothers & More.** Discussion group for moms who have adjusted their careers to spend more time with their children. Today: a "Holiday Make & Take" craft session. 7-9 p.m., Genesis Foundation (Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church), 2309 Packard. Free. 975-2938.

"Circles of Prophecy": Crystal Clear Expressions. Psychic Nanci Rose Gerler channels empowering spiritual messages from various masters, guides, and angels. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore meeting room, 114 S. Main. \$15. Reservations requested. 996-8799.

***Huron Valley Toastmasters.** Every Monday. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the cafeteria. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). 7-9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: \$48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 663-1836.

Dream Group. December 1, 15, & 29. All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Donation. 662-5925.

***Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local cornettist Kiri Tollaksen. Music provided; bring your own music stand. 7:30-9:30 p.m., 929 Barton Dr. (across from Northside School). Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues). 769-1616.

***Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus.** Every Monday. Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Memorial Christian Church, 730 Tappan. Free. 973-6084.

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Monday. Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. 9-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team fee. 665-2968.

"Monday Tango en el Grange": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. December 1, 8, & 15. All invited

Filler's

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

U.S. 23 & WASHTENAW
ANN ARBOR

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THEY MAKE A GREAT PRESENTATION AND YOU A GREAT HOSTESS FOR CHOOSING "HILLER'S".

HILLER'S NE PLUS ULTRA DELI TRAY

Choose any four from our large selection of Super Premium Brand luncheon meats. Choose any two cheeses, potato salad or cole slaw, and your choice of rye or pumpernickel bread. Presented with an assortment of olives, pickles, tomatoes, radishes and condiments

\$5.99 Per Person
(Minimum 10)

HILLER'S FANCY CHEESE TRAY

Choose any four from our selection of meat & cheese.
Tasty bite size pieces of Swiss, Muenster, Harvarti, Cheddar, Colby, Hot Pepper and American cheese. Add pepperoni and hard salami chunks, if you wish

Serves 10 - 15 People
\$29.99 Each

HILLER'S SHRIMP TRAY

Approximately 70 Shrimp
Fully cooked, extra large shrimp garnished with crisp, fresh greens and zesty lemon, accompanied by our own tangy cocktail sauce. A can't miss party pleaser

Serves 10 - 15 People
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HILLER'S SPINACH DIP PLATTER

We hollow out a large round fresh sourdough bread and fill it with our freshly made spinach dip. Served with rye, pumpernickel and sourdough bread chunks. Tastes delicious!!

Serves 10 - 15 People
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FRESH SEASONAL FRUIT TRAY

The best of the season's bounty!
SMALL \$29.99 Tray
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FRESH VEGETABLE TRAY

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Seasonal garden vegetables cut finger sized
SMALL \$24.99 Tray
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MEDIUM \$34.99 Tray
Serves 15 - 20 People
LARGE \$44.99 Tray
Serves 20 - 25 People

We ask 2 days advance notice for all orders - Visa, Mastercard required for phone orders
ORDER EARLY! 734-677-2370 - In The Arborland Mall

FLATNOOTS CHRISTMAS TREES Greetings!

We are urban campers from the north country coming to Ann Arbor to once again sell our Christmas trees and wreaths.

We will be setting up our portable arbor at:

- The Plymouth Road Mall on Plymouth Road and Huron Parkway (World Headquarters)
- Boulevard Plaza on West Stadium, just north of the post office.

We are tree growers from Northern Michigan and are offering these species:

DOUGLAS FIR • FRASER FIR • CONCOLOR FIR
BLUE SPRUCE • WHITE SPRUCE • SCOTCH PINE • WHITE PINE

Sized from 3 foot tabletops to majestic 15 footers. We also have a fine selection of wreaths (decorated and undecorated) roping (garland) and tree stands. Bring in your stand and we will fresh cut, prune and fit your tree to your stand. Tree delivery is also available.

Mission Statement:

Flatnoots comes to Ann Arbor to erect our portable arbor and to do some urban camping. To see old friends and to meet new friends. To enjoy ourselves and not to be boneheads, and perhaps to sell a few Christmas trees and wreaths.

This year we offer these discounts:

- 10% to Senior Citizens
- 10% to anybody who wears a sombrero
- 10% to anyone shorter than my friend Phil
- 10% to Coneheads

Peace & Prosperity to All!
Duke
HGBIC

Flatnoots is a proud member of the Asphalt Entrepreneurs Association

1 MONDAY EVENTS continued

to shake off Monday blues with a few whirls around the dance floor. Recorded music. Preceded at 8 p.m. by dance lessons. 9-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$5. 327-0642, 502-2986.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Singing Detective" (Keith Gordon, 2003). December 1 & 2. Noir detective fantasy about a bedridden pulp novelist who has fevered dreams of becoming one of his characters, a hardboiled PI. Robert Downey Jr., Robin Wright Penn. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

2 TUESDAY

★Holiday Potluck Brunch: Newcomers Coterie Club of Ann Arbor. All women who have recently moved or returned to the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area invited to bring a dish to pass. 9:30 a.m., Ann Arbor Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 761-1809.

10th Annual Conger Holiday Art Market: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. Sale of works by 33 area artisans, including jewelry, baskets, silk arrangements, holiday items, ceramics, painted furniture, and clothing. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. Also, the Conger Group hosts its annual "Holiday Home Tour" today (see below). 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Barton Hills Country Club, 730 Country Club Rd. \$5 admission. 433-9698.

Holiday Home Tour: Lucile B. Conger U-M Alumnae Group. A tour of 4 area homes, all within a short drive of one another, spectacularly decorated for the holidays by professional designers. Proceeds benefit scholarships for U-M women. Ticket includes admission to the Holiday Art Market (see above). 10 a.m.-8 p.m., various locations. Tickets \$15 in advance at Letty's, Heslop's, Back Alley Gourmet, Downtown Home & Garden, and Nicola's Books; \$20 at the holiday art market and tour homes. 433-9698.

★Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center. Every Tuesday. All seniors invited to play mah-jongg (noon-2 p.m.) and/or join the ABC Quilters (1-3 p.m.) to make quilts for HIV-infected babies. Also, fitness and health instructor Marie Moore discusses "Self-Help Toward Optimal Aging" (10 a.m.-noon through November 18), and Fun and Games Time (1-3 p.m.) with bridge and Trivial Pursuit. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

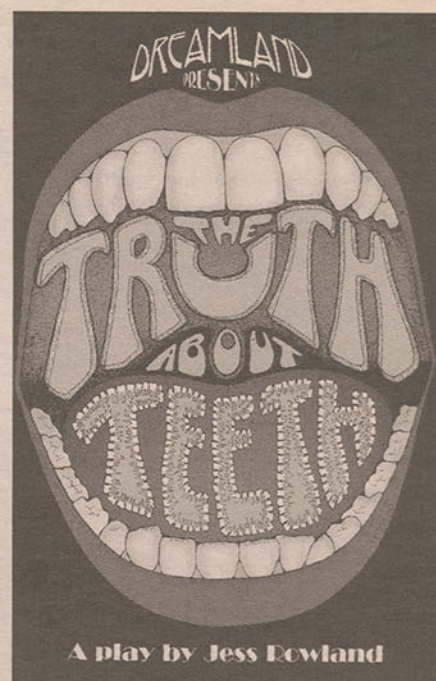
★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble. Every Tuesday & Thursday except December 25. Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids ages 2-9. This month's topics: "Winter" (December 2 & 4), "Holiday Favorite" (December 9 & 11), "Hanukkah Stories" (December 16 & 18), "Christmas Stories" (December 23), and "Favorites of the Year" (December 30). 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★Story Circle with Storyteller Rowena Conahan. December 2 & 12. This local storyteller presents a series of programs for kids ages 3-8 featuring stories and games exploring the geography and folklore of different continents. Snack. Today's topic: "Stories from Australia." Also this month, "A Christmas Circle" (December 12). 11:15 a.m.-noon, location TBA. \$8 (2 or more children, \$7 each). 665-2677.

★"Numerical Abilities in the Domestic Dog": U-M Psychology Department. Talk by U-M psychology instructor Camille Ward. Noon, 4448 East Hall, 525 East University. Free. 763-2347.

★Brown Bag Lecture: U-M Institute for the Humanities. Every Tuesday through December 9. Talks by various U-M and visiting scholars. Bring a bag lunch. Today: "Cities, Citizenship, and Other Jo'burg Stories," a talk by U-M film and video professor Lucia Saks that includes showing of excerpts from Oliver Schmitz and Brian Tilley's documentary about the lives of several people in downtown Johannesburg. Also this month: U-M sociology grad student Cedric de Leon discusses "Radicals in Our Midst: The American Critique of Capitalism in the Chicago Two-Party System" (December 9). Noon, 520 Rackham. Free. 936-3518.

★Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies. Every Tuesday through December 9. Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Bring a bag lunch; cookies & coffee served. Today: University of Pennsylvania sociology and population studies professor Emily Hannum discusses "Poverty and Children's Schooling in Rural Northwest China." Also this month: National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (Tokyo) archives section head Ide Seinosuke



The Dreamland Theater presents *The Truth about Teeth*, its incisive yet Dadaist look at American tooth culture, every weekend before Christmas.

on "Globalization and Cross-Cultural Boundaries: The Question of Identity in Chinese and Korean Paintings Imported to Medieval Japan" (December 9). Noon-1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6308.

"Albert Kahn, Master of American Industrial Architecture": U-M Detroit Observatory. Talk by U-M Bentley Historical Library assistant archivist Sally Bund. 3 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. \$5 suggested donation. 763-2230.

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. December 2 & 4. U-M opera students perform staged excerpts from Dvorak's *Rusalka*, Bellini's *La Sonnambula*, and Mozart's *Idomeneo* (5 p.m.) and from Mozart's *The Impresario*, Paulus's *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, Strauss's *Arabella*, and Massenet's *Werther* (7 p.m.). 5 & 7 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★Community Forum: Ann Arbor Committee for Peace. Michigan congressman John Dingell discusses the war in Iraq, government accountability, and corporate malfeasance. All invited. 6-7:30 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. 332-9047.

★Ann Arbor FrontRunners. Every Tuesday & Thursday except December 25. Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3-5 miles to run with FrontRunners members. 6:30 p.m., Fuller Park at Maiden Lane, 3000 Fuller Rd. Free. 741-1763.

★"A Gathering of Peace": The Free Daist Communion. Every Tuesday. Prayer vigil for peace featuring the teachings of Adi Da, Western-born guru Heart Master (formerly known as Da Free John). All invited. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 741-0432.

★Sweet Adelines County Connection. Every Tuesday. All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 30-member barbershop harmony chorus. 7-10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$18 monthly dues for those who join). 995-4110.

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. December 2, 9, & 16. Historical and traditional English dances. Today: callers Alisa Dodson and Carol Jacobs with live music by pianist David West and fiddler Donna Baird. Also this month: callers Shirley Harden and Greg Meisner with pianist Debbie Jackson and fiddler Bruce Sagan (December 9), and caller Dodson with pianist Jackson, fiddler Anne Ogren, and oboist Martha Stokely at a "Winter Solstice Holiday Dance Party" (December 16) that's followed by a potluck (bring party food to share) and jam session. Partners, previous experience not necessary. Comfortable nonslip walking shoes recommended. 7 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. \$6. 422-1170.

★Washtenaw Ski Touring Club. December 2 & 16. All invited to learn about "Clothing: How to

Dress, and Current Fashions" (today) and hear some "Skiing Horror Stories" (December 16). 7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House. Free. 665-0248.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. North Carolina State. 7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$21. 764-0247.

Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club. Every Tuesday except December 23 & 30. Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 27th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.). U-M indoor track, S. State at Hoover. U-M pass (\$5 per day) required. 663-9740.

***Ann Arbor Smocking Group.** Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in the English art of embroidery known as smocking and in heirloom sewing. All invited. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-7867.

***Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** Every Tuesday & Saturday. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. 7:30-9:30 p.m. (Tues.) & 1-3 p.m. (Sat.), location TBA. Free. 913-5831.

***Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** Every Tuesday. All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call Keith Opal at 741-1506.

***"Teens Using Drugs: What to Know and What to Do": Dawn Farm.** December 2 & 9. 2-part talk by local social worker Ron Harrison. Today: "What to Know." Also this month: "What to Do" (December 9). Refreshments, literature. 7:30-9 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, classroom EC4, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 973-7892.

***Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Members show their recent slides and prints illustrating the theme "Scenery." All invited. 7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 310, 1655 Newport Rd. at Sunset. Free (\$10 annual dues for those who join). 663-3763, 665-6597.

***"A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** Every Tuesday. Talk by Rimpoché Nawang Gehlek, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. Occasionally, the talk is given by Gehlek's longtime student Aura Glaser or a visiting speaker. 7:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. Free, but donations are accepted. 994-3387.

***"Ancient Wisdom of Traditional Medicine Compared to Modern Research": U-M Science Research Club.** Talk by local chiropractor Darren Schmidt. Refreshments. 7:30-10 p.m., G-390 Dental Bldg., 1011 North University. (Entrance is from 3rd level of the Fletcher St. parking structure.) Free. 761-4320.

***Spanish Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *Satanas* (Satan), Colombian Mario Mendoza's social realist novel exploring the dark side of life in contemporary Bogota. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

***German Speakers' Round Table.** Every Tuesday. All German speakers invited for conversation. 8 p.m., Pelagos Taverna, 303 Detroit St. Free admission. 665-2931.

Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. Featured reader TBA. Followed by a poetry slam, in which poets read one of their works in each round of a tournament-style competition for a \$10 prize and the heady adrenaline rush that accompanies victory. The program opens and closes with open mike readings, which usually draw an engaging variety of accomplished poets and entertaining monologists in verse. 8-11 p.m., Heidelberg Rathskeller, 215 N. Main. \$4. For information, call Larry Francis at 426-3451.

Asylum Street Spankers: The Ark. Offbeat, neo-hippie dance music by this acoustic octet from Austin, Texas, that sets goofy lyrics to a high-spirited amalgam of blues, hot jazz, ragtime, old-time country, and just about any other genre of pre-WW II American music it can find. Led by singer-songwriters Christina Marrs and Guy Forsyth, the band features guitars, bass, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, kazoo, and saw. The band's latest CD, *Asylum Madness*, is a salute to pot. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Ann Arbor Ballroom Dancers. Every Tuesday except December 23 & 30. Ballroom dancing to live music by Detroit-area bands. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a dance class (\$4). Dress code observed.



DECEMBER EVENTS @ Ann Arbor District Library



- | | | |
|-----------|---------|---|
| Wednesday | Dec. 3 | Create a Winter Craft (ages 3 and up)
West Branch
2:00 - 2:30 pm
Repeated: Thursday, Dec. 11, 10:30 - 11:00 am — Northeast Branch |
| Saturday | Dec. 6 | Friends of the Library Holiday Book Sale
Downtown Library Friends Book Shop
10:00 am - 4:00 pm |
| Saturday | Dec. 6 | How Do I Begin? Science Fair Ideas (ages 11-14)
Downtown Library Youth Story Room
2:00 - 3:00 pm
Repeated: Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 - 8:00 pm — Northeast Branch |
| Sunday | Dec. 7 | Great Musical Events of the University Musical Society at Hill Auditorium: Part IV: Farewells and Welcomes, 1973-1992 — Lecture by music specialist Richard LeSueur
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room
3:00 - 4:30 pm |
| Thursday | Dec. 11 | Oscar-Winning Animated Film: <i>Spirited Away</i>
Northeast Branch
7:00 - 9:00 pm |
| Saturday | Dec. 13 | Concert — Hand bell music by Classical Bells
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room
2:00 - 3:00 pm |
| Sunday | Dec. 14 | Film and Concert — Blue Dahlia plays original music for Buster Keaton silent film comedy Seven Chances
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room
3:00 - 4:30 pm |
| Wednesday | Dec. 17 | Concert — World War II theatrical revue with the Boogie Woogie Babies
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room
7:30 - 8:30 pm |
| Thursday | Dec. 18 | Concert — Jefferson Street Chorale
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room
7:00 - 8:30 pm |
| Sunday | Dec. 21 | Booked For Lunch — Lecture by youth author Shutta Crum
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room
1:00 - 2:00 pm |
| Friday | Dec. 26 | Silly Stories for All Ages with Laura Pershin Raynor
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room
10:00 - 10:30 am |
| Saturday | Dec. 27 | Anime Film Festival: <i>Chinese Ghost Story</i>
Northeast Branch
2:00 - 4:00 pm |
| Sunday | Dec. 28 | Anime Film Festival: <i>Spring and Chaos</i>
Northeast Branch
2:00 - 4:00 pm |
| Monday | Dec. 29 | Comic Artist Mark Crilley
Northeast Branch
2:00 - 3:00 pm |
| Monday | Dec. 29 | Anime Film Festival: <i>Love Hina: Moving In</i>
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room
7:00 - 9:00 pm |
| Tuesday | Dec. 30 | Wanda the Fairy Godmother
West Branch
11:00 am - noon
Repeated: 2:00 - 3:00 pm — Northeast Branch
7:00 - 8:00 pm — Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room |
| Tuesday | Dec. 30 | Anime Film Festival — <i>Ranma 1/2: The Movie 1</i> and <i>Ranma 1/2: The Movie 2</i>
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room
2:00 - 5:00 pm |

For more information call 327.4200 or visit our website at www.aadl.org

university of michigan school of art & design calendar of events

DECEMBER '03

11.7
12.13



Jean Paul Slusser Gallery

Art & Architecture Bldg.
Tu/Th 12-8pm W/F/Sa 11am-4pm
Closed Sundays, Mondays and Major Holidays
CLOSED 12.13

EXHIBITION: LANDSCAPES OF MAN

Five renowned contemporary artists, including Emmet Gowin, Michal Rovner, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Vera Lutter and Edward Burtynsky, invite the viewer to contemplate our planet and our place on it.

11.11
12.12



Ave Maria Fine Art Gallery

Domino's Farms, Lobby B
24 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Tu-F 9am-6pm Sa 10am-2pm

EXHIBITION: FOUR PERSPECTIVES ON LANDSCAPE

This exhibition features School of Art & Design faculty Nora Venturelli, as well as Martha Keller, Laurie Schirmer Carpenter, and Bev Walker. For further information please contact Amy Swiney at 734.930.7514, www.avemariaart.com or aswiney@avemariaart.com

11.14
1.9.04



Donna Batista Gallery

756 Livernois (South of 9 Mile)
Ferndale, MI 48220
Tu-Sa 11am-5pm Closed Su/M

EXHIBITION: NANCY THAYER

School of Art & Design faculty Nancy Thayer exhibits recent paintings on steel and painted panel. For further information please call 248.544.4627.

12.04



Michigan Theatre

603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

LECTURE: DALE ANN CLARK

Dale Ann Clark works in the fragrance industry, with a particular focus on "Scentertainment" — creating scents used to enhance the sensory experience of an event or location. Supported by the Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Visitors Fund.

LECTURE 5:00PM ADMISSION FREE

12.05
1.4.04



Work

306 S. State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Tu/W/Th 11am-6pm
F/Sa 11am-8pm, Su 12-5pm
CLOSED 12.22 - 01.01.04

EXHIBITION: OFF THE WALL: THE 3-D SHOW

School of Art & Design undergraduate artists and designers exhibit three-dimensional work in a range of media.

RECEPTION DECEMBER 5, 6:00-9:00PM

12.05
1.5.04



Warren Robbins Gallery

Art & Architecture Bldg.
M-F 9am-5pm
CLOSED 12.24 - 01.04.04

EXHIBITION: THE SPECTACULAR SANTA SHOW

A group show curated by School of Art & Design Master of Fine Arts degree candidate Teresa Rocha, who writes: Dear Santa, We decided to have a show about you. We are working hard and being good so our "wishes" will come true on December 5th. We know you will be busy later, so you don't have any excuse not to show up. It will be so much fun!

RECEPTION DECEMBER 5, 6:00-9:00PM



Sign language interpreter provided upon advance request for lectures. Call 734.763.4417.
University of Michigan, Art & Architecture Bldg. 2000 Bonisteel Blvd. Ann Arbor, MI 48109.2069
<http://www.art-design.umich.edu>
Most events are free and open to the public. For more information, please call 734.936.2082 or email: katewest@umich.edu

2 TUESDAY EVENTS continued

8:15-10:45 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. \$6 (members, \$5). 665-2723, (517) 592-5771.

"Tuesday Ticker": The Heidelberg Club Above. Every Tuesday. Short sets by a variety of area and regional stand-up comics. If you'd like to perform, call emcee Timmy P at 369-2381 at least 5 days in advance. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m., Club Above (3rd floor of the Heidelberg), 215 N. Main. \$5 at the door only. 663-5578.

*Trivia Quiz: The Arena Sports Grille and Bar. Every Tuesday. All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts and hats. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. 10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222-9999.

FILMS

MTF. "Singing Detective" (Keith Gordon, 2003). See 1 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **Projectorhead.** "Annie Hall" (Woody Allen, 1977). Allen's best film, a witty semiautobiographical romantic comedy. Woody Allen, Diane Keaton. FREE. 764-0147. Modern Languages II (812 E. Washington), 7 p.m. **Underworld.** "Anime Night." Every Tuesday. Free DVD showings of feature-length Japanese anime films (or multiple episodes from an anime series) chosen each night by the audience. No admission after 9:30 p.m. Japanese subtitles. FREE. 998-0547. The Underworld (1202 South University), 9-11 p.m.

3 WEDNESDAY

"Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers/Busch's Valu Land. December 3-7. Live broadcasts by Kool 107 DJs. Hot soup available. Nonperishable food donations—dropped off at any Washtenaw County Busch's—requested for Food Gatherers, a local organization that collects excess fresh food from restaurants and markets to distribute to local shelters and other organizations with food programs. 6 a.m.-7 p.m. (Wed.-Sat.) & 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Sun.), Busch's Valu Land, 2240 S. Main. Free admission; donations of canned goods or cash encouraged. 761-2796.

*Northeast Neighbors: Ann Arbor District Library. Every Wednesday. Parents with small children invited to meet and talk while their kids enjoy books, toys, and puzzles. 10-11:30 a.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327-4200.

*Wednesday Winter Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Every Wednesday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. 10 a.m. (Saturdays only) & 1 p.m. (both days), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 994-5908 & 663-4498 (today's ride), 913-9851 (general information).

*"Art Videos": U-M Museum of Art. December 3, 10, & 17. This month's screenings complement an exhibit of sculpture by Barbara Hepworth. Today: *Five British Sculptors Work and Talk*, featuring Hepworth, Kenneth Armitage, Lynn Chadwick, Reg Butler, and Henry Moore. Also this month: *Nevelson in Process*, a portrait of the sculptor at work in her studio (December 10), and *Noguchi: The Sculpture of Spaces*, a portrait of a sculptor who dreamed of sculpting directly on the earth (December 17). 12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

*Bridge: Jewish Community Center. Every Wednesday except December 24 & 31. Bridge players of all levels of ability invited. 1-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

*Chess Group: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. Every Wednesday through December 24 & 31. All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9350.

Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory. December 3 & 10. Docent-guided tour of the photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope to rotate the telescope dome. 1-4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. \$5 suggested donation. 763-2230.

*Afternoon Group Entertainment: Ann Arbor Parks Department. Every Wednesday & Saturday through December 20. All adults invited to play dominoes, chess, checkers, cards, board games, and more. 1:30-3 p.m. (Wed.) & 1-2 p.m. (Sat.), Northside Community Center (809 Taylor) & Bryant Community Center (3 W. Eden Ct. off Champagne from Stone School Rd., just north of Ellsworth). Free. 994-2722.

*Winter Craft Program: Ann Arbor District Li-

brary. December 3 & 11 (different branch locations). Craft activity for kids age 3 & older. 2-3 p.m. (Dec. 3), AADL West Branch, & 10:30-11 a.m. (Dec. 11), Northeast Branch. Free. Preregistration required. 327-4200.

*"Between Commitment and Consumerism: Art in Postwar Europe and America": U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts. Lecture by U-M art history professor Alexander Potts. Reception follows: 4:10 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium D. Free. 998-6251.

*Runner's Clinic: Michigan Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center. December 3, 10, & 17. Runners of all ability levels invited to chat with and quiz orthopedic surgeon John Anderson, physical therapist Pete Kitto, podiatrist Brad Seel, Tortoise and Hare reps Matt and Monica Holappa, and a rep from Koch's Orthotics. Bring running shoes, shorts, and questions about any aspect of running. 5 p.m., MSMOC, Arbor Park Office Center, 4972B W. Clark Rd. (southwest side of the Clark & Golfside intersection), Ypsilanti. Free. 434-3020.

*Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club. Every Wednesday except December 24 & 31. Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. Note: Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). 6:15-7:45 p.m., 102 Krieger Hall, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes Rd. Free to visitors. Dues: \$24 semiannually. 995-7351.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Charlotte. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

*Huron Valley Model Builders. All invited to join a show-and-tell discussion. Bring your models built from scratch or from kits, including cars, tanks, boats, airplanes, spacecraft, figures, and more. 7 p.m., Lakeview Mobile Home Park clubhouse, 9910 Geraldine, Ypsilanti Twp. (take I-94 to Huron St. exit and head south, turn left on Textile, turn right on Bunton). Free. 481-1044.

*Transcendental Meditation Introductory Session: Maharishi Vedic School. Every Wednesday. Ann Arbor TM director Carol Lubetkin introduces this simple, natural meditation technique for creativity, happiness, and fulfillment. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 996-8686.

*"Advent and Christmas Carol Study": Bethlehem United Church of Christ. December 3 & 10. Bethlehem Church organist Gail Jennings and congregation member Mary Smith, a music teacher, present a 2-part discussion of the origins and history of favorite Advent and Christmas carols. Also, a carol sing-along. 7 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 665-6149.

*Westside Writers Group: Nicola's Books. All invited to join members of this writing group to read and discuss excerpts of each other's work (bring some of your own). 7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 971-5763.

*Poetry Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Every Wednesday except December 24 & 31. Open mike poetry readings, except when there is a featured reader. Sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-9468.

"Stars Onstage: A Benefit Concert for Children": Washtenaw Community College. A set by the WCC Jazz Orchestra, followed by solo and ensemble hip-hop, tap, and ballet performances by dance students from WCC, the Dance Theater Studio, and the Spotlight Studio LLC (Pinckney). Proceeds benefit the U-M's Mott Children's Hospital. 7 p.m., WCC Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Donation or unwrapped gift. 677-5090.

*Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a period depot that members restored. 7:30-10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter (take Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd. to downtown Dexter and turn north on Broad St.). Free. 426-5100.

*Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council. Every Monday through December 17. Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. 7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665-3522.

"In Dulci Jubilo: Christmas Carols and Motets": Vox. See review, p. 88. Christopher Wolverton directs this local early-music chorus in a program featuring Gregorian chant for the Christmas season, medieval carols, Renaissance polyphony, and the premiere of a commissioned work by Michigan composer Kristin Kuster. 7:30 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, State at Kingsley. \$15 (students & seniors, \$12) at the door only. 944-0243.

*"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. Every Wednesday.

day except December 24 & 31. All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, *Intuitive Thinking as a Spiritual Path*. 8-9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485-3764.

***Enid Dame: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This Brooklyn, New York, poet, a Rutgers-Newark English professor and editor of the Jewish feminist magazine *Bridges*, reads from *Stone Shekhina*, her new collection of midrashic poems exploring the psychology of biblical characters with a penetrating humor that one reviewer calls "audacious and wise, kind and painful." Signing, refreshments. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

***Latke Vegas Reloaded:** U-M Hillel. All invited to play such casino games as blackjack and poker. Players cash in their chips for raffle tickets. Refreshments. All proceeds benefit victims of the California wildfires. Admission fee is good for 30 chips; additional chips (10 for \$1) available. 8-11 p.m., Hillel, 1429 Hill. \$3. 769-0500.

***Flute Choir: EMU Music Department.** Julie Stone and Amy Wagner direct this music-student ensemble in a program TBA. 8 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

***Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** U-M piano professor Ellen Rowe leads the Jazz Ensemble in her own compositions and those of Muhal Richard Abrams, Dave Holland, Elaine Elias, and U-M student composers. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 763-0583.

***Digital Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** U-M music technology professor and nationally known avant-jazz musician Stephen Rush leads this adventurous music-student ensemble in ambient techno music, sound collages, and multimedia pieces combining dance, music, and video screenings. Seating limited; arrive early. 8 p.m., Media Union Video Studio, 2281 Bonisteel (next to Lurie Tower), North Campus. Free. 763-3266.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. Every Wednesday-Sunday through December 20. See review, p. 98. Guy Sanville directs this Neil Simon comedy, a collection of humorous vignettes adapted from the stories of Anton Chekhov. Cast: Sandra Birch, Ryan Carlson, Terry Heck, Tobin Hissong, Paul Hopper, Molly Thomas, and Tom Whalen. 3 & 8 p.m., Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$22.50 (Wed. & Thurs.), \$27.50 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), \$32.50 (Fri., Sat., & Sun. eves.) in advance and at the door. 433-ROSE.

FILMS

MTF. Films TBA. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **U-M Center for Russian and East European Studies St. Petersburg Film Series.** **"Brother"** (Aleksei Balabanov, 1997). Socially conscious gangster film set in post-Soviet St. Petersburg. Russian, subtitles. Free. 764-0351. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 8:30 p.m. **U-M Office of Multicultural Student Affairs.** **"Rabbit-Proof Fence"** (Phillip Noyce, 2002). Three Australian aboriginal girls are abducted from their families and sent to boarding school in the 30s. Kenneth Branagh. FREE. 763-9044. Trotter House (1443 Washtenaw), 7 p.m.

4 THURSDAY

Holiday Bazaar: Chelsea Community Hospital. 6-8 vendors offer Christmas crafts and baked goods. Also, a drawing for a DVD, ceramics, and gift certificates. 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., CCH, 775 S. Main St., Chelsea. Free admission. 475-3913.

57th Annual Greens Market: Ann Arbor Branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association. A wide selection of fresh greenery arranged in wreaths, bundles, and swags for holiday decoration. Also, handmade gifts and crafts, and a white elephant sale. Raffle. All proceeds benefit local non-profit organizations. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free admission. Wheelchair accessible. 769-1231.

***Drop-In Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** December 4 & 10 (different branch locations). Stories and songs for kids ages 3 & up (accompanied by an adult). 10-10:30 a.m., AADL Northeast (Dec. 4) & West (Dec. 10) branches, & 2-2:30 p.m. (Dec. 10), West Branch. Free. 327-4200.

***Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** Every Thursday except December 25. A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with "Fitness Fun," a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At 11 a.m., an educational or cultural presentation. Today: Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County director Jeff Levin describes his recent "Trip to Israel." Also this month: Sam Barnett celebrates Hanukkah with a program of "Yiddish and Dance



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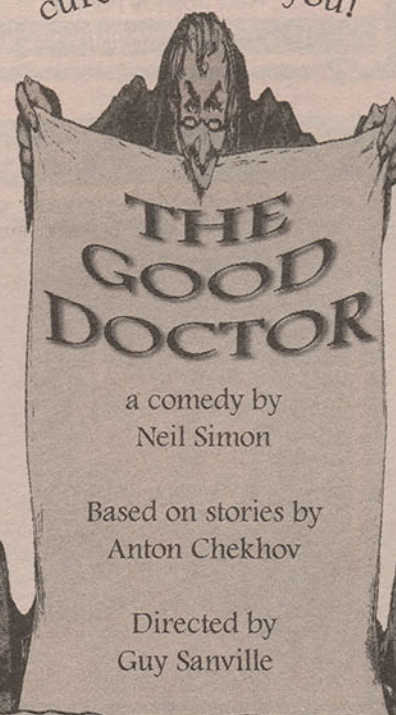
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734.663.2628
Gift certificates available
Free Parking in Structures - December Saturdays!



Pick up fresh wreaths and pick through a sale of white elephant items at the annual Ann Arbor Women's Farm & Garden Greens Market, at the Women's City Club Dec. 4.



Carl Biedermann and cutter will demonstrate the making of their handcrafted ornaments and will also sign them, including ornaments you may already have.

Personal appearance & ornament signing
Thursday, December 11th
1pm-4pm

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Fridays 'til 8:30pm & Sundays noon to 5pm

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Music" (December 11), and a "Hanukkah Joke Contest and Anecdote Sharing" (December 18). Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch (\$3 with reservation, \$4 without reservation and for non-seniors). The program concludes with a discussion of **Current Events** (1-2 p.m.) and a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group** (2:15-3:15 p.m.), a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschawsky. All invited. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

"Holistic Health Care": First Presbyterian Church Thursday Forum. Talk by local chiropractor Darren Schmidt. Noon-1:15 p.m., First Presbyterian Church social hall, 1432 Washtenaw. \$5 (includes buffet lunch). 662-4466.

"Jewish Communities' Perceptions Regarding Health Care": U-M Health System Program for Multicultural Health. Talk by Temple Beth Emeth rabbi Robert Levy. Noon-1 p.m., 2C224 University Hospital (behind the gift shop near the cafeteria). Free. 615-1404.

African Diasporic Book Club: U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies. All invited to discuss a book TBA. Noon, 4701 Haven Hall, 505 S. State. Free. 764-5518.

Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Japanese Studies. December 4 & 11. Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Today: University of Erfurt (Germany) East Asian history professor Reinhard Zoellner discusses "The Construction of 'East Asia': German-Japanese Contributions." Also this month: Chiba University (Japan) history professor Shinobu Ikeda on "The Allure of Women Clothed in Chinese Dress: Imperialism and Modernism" (December 11). Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6307.

Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals. Every Thursday. Performances by area and guest artists. Today: a sneak preview of the Youth Dance Theater's production of *The Nutcracker* (see 12 Friday listing). Also this month: violinist and oud player Simon Shaheen (see 11 Thursday listing) and seasonal music by the U-M employee ensemble *Counterpoint* (December 18). 12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936-ARTS.

"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network. Every Thursday except December 25. A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than 2 graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. *Access Soapbox* shows are aired daily for 1 week, beginning on Sunday. 2-7

p.m., CTN studio, LL 114 Edison Center, 425 S. Main. Free. Reservations accepted Tues.-Fri. of the week preceding your appearance. 769-7422.

"Culture and Education in Chimpanzees": U-M Psychology Department. Talk by Kyoto University psychology professor Tetsuro Matsuzawa. 2:30 p.m., 4448 East Hall, 525 East University. Free. 763-2347.

Dale Ann Clark: U-M School of Art and Design. Talk by this veteran scent designer who specializes in "Scentertainment," the use of a fragrance to enhance an event or space. 5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 936-0672.

Nicholas Delbanco: U-M English Department. See review, p. 91. A nationally acclaimed novelist known for his richly textured prose and brooding narrative voice, this U-M English professor reads from new and old fiction, including a novel in progress, *The Vagabonds*. 5 p.m., Business School Hale Auditorium, 701 Tappan. Free. 615-3710.

Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. See 2 Tuesday, 5 & 7 p.m.

Annual Party: Child Care Network. All invited for dinner and a show by local magician Jeff Wawrzaszek. Dessert and PB&Js available. 6-8 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. Preregistration required. 975-1840.

"Women Running Fit": Two Dogs Running. Every Thursday except December 25. All women invited to pair up with runners of their pace and run a distance of their choice. Maps provided. Runners who accumulate 50 miles receive a T-shirt from Running Fit. 6:30 p.m., Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free. 657-0214.

Scandinavian Christmas Celebration: Ann Arbor Scandinavian Club. This family-oriented party features folk singing, a Lucia train (a Swedish children's pageant), and other activities. Santa Claus is on hand. Bring a dish to share for a potluck. Smorgasbord with glogg (a spiced seasonal fruit-and-wine beverage). Open to anyone interested in Scandinavian culture. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. \$5 (children, \$3). 741-0895.

Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition. All invited to discuss ways to improve the quality and quantity of bicycling and walking facilities in the county. 7 p.m., Ecology Center, 117 N. Division. Free. 487-9058.

Washtenaw Toastmasters. Every Thursday except December 25. Members develop public-speaking skills and self-confidence in a supportive environment. Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). 7-9 p.m., 4205 Washtenaw. Free to visitors. Dues: \$52 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of \$16). 572-9978.

"Information about Cohousing." December 4, 14, & 15. All invited to learn more about a new cohousing community now forming. *Cohousing* is a

term for an ecologically conscious, collectively owned, resident-planned housing development, such as the Sunward Cohousing complex off Jackson Road. 7 p.m., *Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center* (Dec. 4 & 15), & location TBA (Dec. 14). Free. 663-5516.

★Thursday Tour: U-M Museum of Art. Docent-guided tour of *Masterworks of African Art: The Congo Basin*. 7 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

★Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health. Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. 7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-9724.

★Huron River Sangha. Every Thursday. Sitting and walking meditation practice, followed by a dharma discussion based on the teachings of the Vietnamese Zen Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh. 7:15-9:15 p.m., location TBA. Free. 327-1180.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. Every Thursday except December 25. Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. 7:30-9:30 p.m., the barn at *Gretchen's House V*, 2625 Traver (off Nixon). \$3. 769-4324, 426-0241.

★Choir Concert: Huron Players. Richard Ingram and Bonnie Kidd lead Huron students in works TBA. 7:30 p.m., *Huron High School Meyer Auditorium*, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994-2040.

★Winter Concert: Greenhills School. Ben Cohen leads the middle and high school choirs in a program of spirituals, vocal jazz, seasonal songs, and works by Scarlatti, Finzi, Patriquin, and Hatfield. 7:30 p.m., *Greenhills Campbell Center for the Performing Arts*, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4057.

★Ann Arbor Ski Club. December 4 & 18. All age 21 & older invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. Tonight's meeting is followed by a dance. Newcomers welcome. 8-11 p.m., *Cobblestone Farm barn*, 2781 Packard. Free. 761-3419.

★Renaissance Dances: Bedlam. December 4, 11, & 18. Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavaues, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. 8-11 p.m., *Michigan League Henderson Room*. Free. 971-1809.

★Bob Tarte: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This music journalist, the Technobeat columnist for *The Beat* magazine, reads from *Enslaved by Ducks*, his hilarious memoir about his life near the village of Lowell in rural Michigan, where he had moved in order to find peace and quiet in which to write music reviews. But he married a woman who wanted a rabbit, and eventually he was surprised to find himself gradually transformed into a doting animal lover, outnumbered and outwitted by a menagerie of rabbits, and ducks, and geese, and doves—not to mention a gender-switching African grey parrot. Signing, refreshments. 8 p.m., *Shaman Drum*, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

Brad Shepik Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. A leading figure in the New York City avant-garde jazz scene, guitarist Shepik is known for his rhythmic complexity and his innovative incorporation of a wide range of East European and Middle Eastern musical idioms. A *Jazz Times* critic praised his trio, which includes drummer Tom Rainey and bassist Scott Colley, as "capable of alternating between teetering flashbulb tirades and intimate bedtime stories." Tonight's concert showcases his trio's wide-ranging new CD, *Drip*. 8 p.m., *KCH*, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25. Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

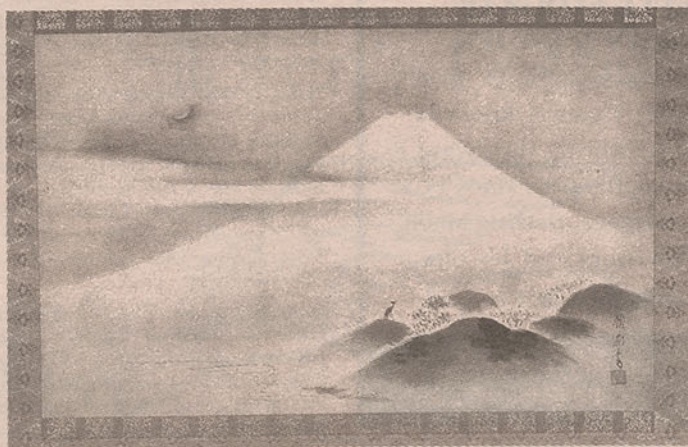
★"Celebrating St. Petersburg Concert": U-M Museum of Art. U-M piano professor **Arthur Greene** performs works by Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, Balakirev, Lyadov, and Lyapunov. In conjunction with the recent St. Petersburg exhibit, which ended November 23. 8 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

Madcat & Kane: The Ark. Blues, R&B, folk, & jazz by the nationally acclaimed local duo of world-class harmonica wizard Peter Madcat Ruth and ace fingerstyle blues guitarist Shari Kane. 8 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$11 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, *Herb David Guitar Studio*, the *Michigan Union Ticket Office*, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Murder in the Cathedral": Ave Maria College Theater Department. December 4-6. Britta Berlongieri directs Ave Maria students in T. S. Eliot's best play, a parable in verse about conscientious resistance to secular temptation based on the story of the martyrdom of the 12th-century archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Becket. When the king tries to bribe him to give up his challenge to the monarchy, Becket's iron refusal leads to tragedy. The cast includes Scott Fether, K. C. Caruth, Mahuli Dube, Ea-

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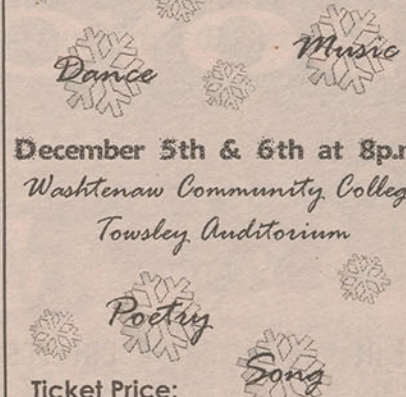
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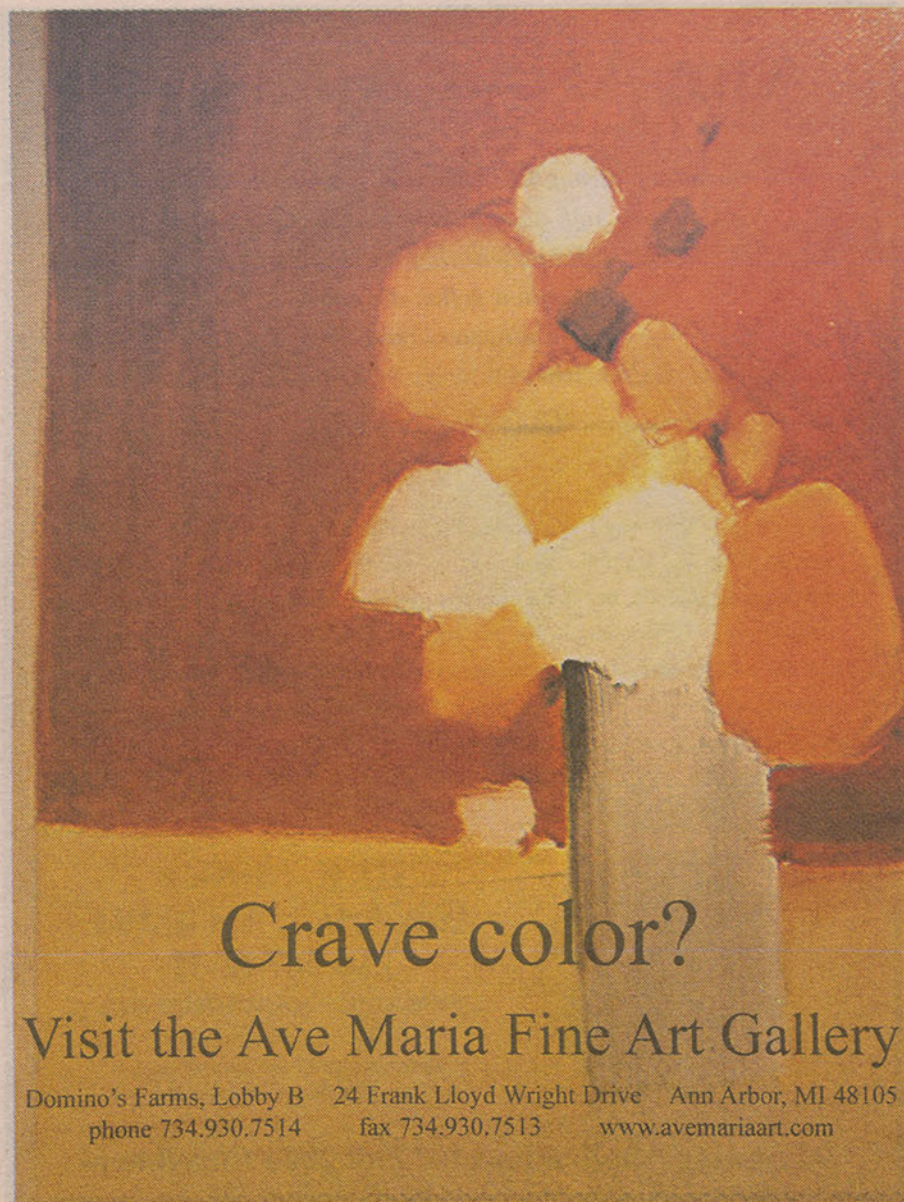
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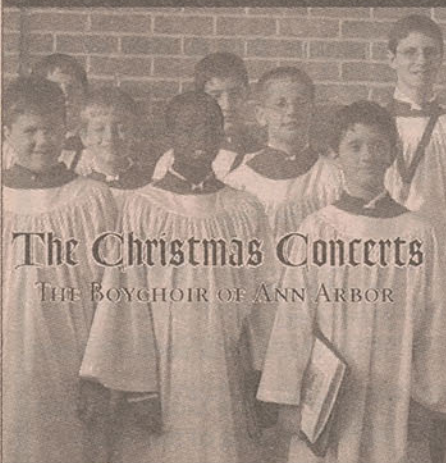
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Accepting Applications for Fall 2004 Enrollment

4 THURSDAY EVENTS continued

mon Ladewski, Roy Mullett, Mara Ruane, Luke De-weese, Joseph Gates, and Colin Blatchford. 8 p.m., Ave Maria College Auditorium, 300 W. Forest Ave., Ypsilanti (take Washtenaw to its dead end on Huron and turn left; turn right on Forest). Tickets \$15 (students, \$7) at the door only; Dec. 4, pay what you can. 337-4506.

"Luck!": U-M Musical Theater Department. December 4-7. U-M musical theater students present a workshop production of the Off Broadway team of Brad Ross and Mark Waldrop's new musical comedy about the role of luck in our lives, an adaptation of Isaac Bashevis Singer's folktale "The Milk of a Lioness." 8 p.m., Trueblood Theater, Frieze Bldg., 105 S. State. Tickets \$8 in advance and at the door. 764-2538.

"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. December 4-7. This popular local town-and-gown company presents Gilbert & Sullivan's wonderfully funny send-up of the conventions of 19th-century melodrama. Set in a fishing village on the coast of England, the story concerns a lonely aristocrat who suffers under his family's ancient curse: he must commit at least one atrocity a day or face a death of unspeakable agony. The problem is he's really a nice guy, with no stomach for dastardly deeds. The plot takes several delicious twists, including sudden switches of identity and romantic affections, ancestral portraits coming to life, and a preposterous legal resolution (a favorite device with Gilbert, himself a failed lawyer). The score is one of Sullivan's best, but the work is seldom performed, mainly because of the difficult special effects it calls for. The cast includes Margot Rood, Sarah Nisbett, Katie Cilluffo, Matt Grace, Ben Robinson, Paul Trani, James Allen, Kevin Casey, Liz Crabtree, Andriana Pachella. 8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets \$15 & \$20 (students, \$7 & \$9; seniors, \$14 & \$19) in advance and at the door. 764-2538.

"The Nutcracker": U-M Theater Department. December 4-7. U-M theater professor John Neville-Andrews directs U-M theater students in North Carolina playwright David Hammond's adaptation of E. T. A. Hoffmann's 1816 children's story, *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*. Hammond's fairy-tale treatment draws more fully than the popular ballet does on Hoffmann's tale about a young girl's devotion to a toy nutcracker she spies under a Christmas tree and the fantastical journey on which her devotion takes her. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$15 & \$20 (students, \$8) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

"Xmas Carol": BlackBag Productions. December 4-7 & 11-14. Barton Bund directs local actors in his adaptation, set in a contemporary business office, of Dickens's venerable heartstring-puller *A Christmas Carol*. When 3 ghosts compel the gimlet-eyed Scrooge to confront the meanness of his crabbed soul, he eventually reverses his icy estrangement from his family and accepts his son's radical lifestyle. Some images may frighten young children. Cast: Charles Sutherland, Mitchell Range, Laurie Atwood, William Myers, Victoria Walters, Rebecca Staffend, Wendy Wright, and Rich Roselle. 8 p.m., Blackbird Theater, 1600 Pauline (at Kay Pkwy. east of Stadium). Tickets \$15 (seniors, \$10; students, \$5) in advance and at the door. 483-7724.

"Bell, Book, and Candle": P.T.D. Productions. November 27-30 & December 4-6. Janet Rich and Lois Kuznets-Dowling direct John Van Druten's sparkly, lighthearted comedy about the abuse of witchcraft. When a bored witch in 1950s Greenwich Village learns that her hunky new neighbor is the fiancé of her old college nemesis, she dusts off her magical powers and, egged on by her dotty aunt, lets fly with mischief that backfires and leads to romantic complications. The cast includes Maureen Biermann, Brian Burchette, O'Bryan Worley, Carl Ellison, and Eric Maurer. 8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10) in advance and at the door. 483-7345.

"The Secret Garden": EMU Theater Department. November 21-23 & December 4-6. EMU drama professor Kerry Graves directs Marsha Norman's Tony Award-winning musical about an orphaned girl sent to live with her widowed uncle and his bedridden son. When the girl discovers her late aunt's tangled, overgrown mess of a garden, she begins a reclamation project that revives her similarly neglected and needy uncle and cousin. Based on the popular 1909 Frances Burnett novel. Note: The Saturday matinee is sold out. 8 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The theater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets \$5 (Thurs.), \$12 (Fri. & Sat.), & \$7 (Sun.) in

advance up to 30 minutes before the show; \$7 (Thurs.), \$14 (Fri. & Sat.), & \$9 (Sun.) at the door. Group discounts available. 487-1221.

"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. Every Thursday through Sunday (except November 27), November 20-December 21. James Posante directs the Michigan premiere of Royal Oak playwright Kim Carney's new play, set on the day of the U-M-MSU football game—the most important day of the year in the Gurley household. The rituals of the day are disrupted by the presence of the fiancée of one of the Gurley boys, and by the end of the day, this surprising woman has turned their world upside down. Cast: Joey Albright, Aral Basil Gribble II, Laurel Hufano, Emily Phenix, David Wolber. 8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$27.50 (seniors, \$24) on Fri. & Sat. and \$22.50 (seniors, \$19) on Thurs. & Sun. in advance by reservation and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663-0681; to charge by phone, call 663-0696.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Peter Berman: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 4-6. Now based in L.A., this U-M grad is a high-energy performer known for his keen sense of the bizarre realities that lurk beneath the surface of everyday life. Opening act is Sal Demillio, a Detroit comic. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 (Thurs.) & \$8 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

U-Club Poetry Slam. Readings by U-M and EMU student poets. Coffee available. Note: People not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Michigan Union after 9 p.m., but if you arrive before 9 p.m., you may remain through the end of the evening. 8:30 p.m., Michigan Union U-Club. \$2. 763-3202.

***G-Men.** This male U-M a cappella chorus presents a program that includes tracks from its latest CD. *They Might Be G-Men*. 9 p.m., Michigan League location TBA. Free. 763-1107.

FILMS

MTF. Films TBA. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

5 FRIDAY

"Holiday Bazaar": Bethel AME Church Women's Missionary Society. Sale of craft items, Christmas decorations, baked goods, white elephant treasures, and more. Lunch available. Proceeds benefit mission programs. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Bethel AME, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free admission. 663-3800.

Annual Christmas Sale: Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor. December 5 & 6. This extremely popular sale features skis, skates, radios, TVs, VCRs, turntables & speakers, hardware, appliances, computers, boots, winter clothing, jewelry, cameras, antiques, and lots of good-quality furniture, from chairs and couches to lamps, desks, and cabinets. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Kiwanis Activities Center, W. Washington at First. Free admission. 665-0450.

"Tiny Tots Time": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). Hands-on outdoor nature activities and free play for kids ages 1-3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$6 per child. 997-1553.

17th Annual Bake Sale: Chelsea Retirement Community Volunteer Committee. Huge sale featuring five 8-foot-long tables filled with tempting treats, from pies to Christmas cakes to pretzels. A benefit for the retirement center. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Chelsea Retirement Community, 805 W. Middle, Chelsea. Free admission. 433-1000, ext. 433.

***21st Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** December 5-8. One of Ann Arbor's most popular Christmas traditions, this family-oriented exhibit includes creches (Nativity scenes) from more than 100 countries around the world, many of them new this year. The exhibit includes many of the creches bequeathed to the exhibit by Catherine Carroll, the well-known local pediatrician who died in 1997. One highlight of Carroll's collection is an 18th-century presepio (Baroque creche) in the tradition that was popular with the Neapolitan royalty and church. It features 10 wood-and-porcelain figures clothed in lavish miniature costumes. Overall, the exhibit includes almost 900 creches collected or made by women of the church. The majority of creches are displayed in a large hall with a 20-foot Christmas tree decorated with lights and Nativity balls. There are also 8 "walk-in" rooms devoted to Latin American, African, Eastern European, Asian, and Americana creches, as well

as a room of spinning light-mill nativities and a "touch table" of unbreakable creches for children to arrange and rearrange. One of the most striking displays is a large French Santon village featuring over 100 Santons (mini saints) carrying gifts to the manger. The creches are made of a variety of materials, including ceramics, wood, cloth, corn husks, leather, and metals. Styles range from simple child-like figures to elegant original designs. Five "look-in" rooms hold the breakable Lladro, Lennox, and Hummel creches, as well as ones from Singapore. The creches range in size from an image inscribed on a pinhead (viewed with a magnifying glass) to 18-inch figures in the new Mexican nativity. Also, at 7:30 p.m. tonight only, a Christmas concert features a variety of vocal and instrumental Christmas music. Program: a prelude and postlude by organist Paul Walker, carols by flute and string ensembles, Vaughan Williams's "Fantasia on Greensleeves" by cellist Nathan Jasinski, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" by a vocal quartet, "Mary's Boy Child" by singer-guitarist Dan McMaster, a violin solo TBA by Corine Hart, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" by a women's vocal ensemble, Adolphe Adam's "O Holy Night" by vocalist Adrienne Webster, a trumpet solo from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* by Andrew Alphin, and Alfred Burt's "Some Children See Him" by vocalist Jennifer Larsen. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1385 Green Rd. Free. 662-7852, 663-3699.

***Holiday Fair: Women's Center of America.** Sale of jewelry, gift items, crafts, baked goods, and vendors' items TBA. Proceeds benefit the Women's Center. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Women's Center, 2425 W. Stadium. Free. 973-6779.

"Puzzles, Preparation, and Play: Everyday Creative Genius": IT Zone Creativity Forum. Jan Nichols of Market Arts leads a program of hands-on fun and games to explore practical strategies for shifting habits of thought and stirring the imagination. Bring a bag lunch. Noon-1:30 p.m., IT Zone, 330 E. Liberty. \$5 (members, free). Preregistration required at annarboritzone.org. 665-9403.

***"Taking Over, Taking Back": U-M Center for South Asian Studies.** Visiting U-M history professor Maya Jasanoff discusses the historical mingling of English and native cultures in India and Egypt. Noon-1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 S. University. Free. 763-5408.

***"Boy Soldier: Coming of Age During World War II": Waldenbooks.** Award-winning author Russ McLogan signs copies of his memoir of his experience as a teen soldier in WW II. 5-8 p.m., Waldenbooks, Briarwood mall. Free. 669-0785.

***Open Card and Board Gaming Night: The Underworld.** Every Friday. All invited to play any of the collectible card or board games that the Underworld carries—but you must find your own opponents. There are 2 Magic: the Gathering tournaments this month: one using a Mirrodin set booster draft deck (\$10 includes cards) on December 5 and one using a type 2 constructed deck (\$5) on December 19. Also, a tournament with the race-car card game *Initial-D* on December 12. 6 p.m.-midnight, Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998-0547.

***Jesse Reiser: U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning.** Talk by this New York City architect who describes his minimalist designs as "driven by nothing less ambitious than a reconceptualization of the city in the age of the post-postmodern." 6 p.m., Art & Architecture auditorium, 2000 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764-1300.

***Holiday Nights: Kerrytown.** December 5, 12, & 19. Sales and live entertainment. 6 p.m.-midnight (Dec. 5) & 6-9 p.m. (Dec. 12 & 19), Kerrytown. Free. 662-5008.

***15th Annual Festival of Lights: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** December 5-7. This popular community celebration offers a variety of family activities and gingerbread house displays in downtown shop windows. Tonight's special events begin with a tree lighting (6:30 p.m., next to the McKune House on Main at Orchard). Santa opens his workshop, where children can participate in crafts while waiting to share their Christmas wishes (7-8:30 p.m., UAW Hall). Also, a living Nativity complete with live animals (7-8:30 p.m., Main at Orchard). Finally, the community carol sing (9-9:30 p.m., train depot). 6:30-9:30 p.m., downtown Chelsea. Free. 475-1145.

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. 7-9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. \$5 requested donation. 996-1332.

***"Christmas Odyssey": Dexter United Methodist Church.** December 5 & 6. All invited to tour Dexter resident Elsi Sly's enormous, elaborate, original interactive theater work, which the entire congregation took over a year to create. *Odyssey* presents 12 different tableaux re-creating scenes from the Bible.

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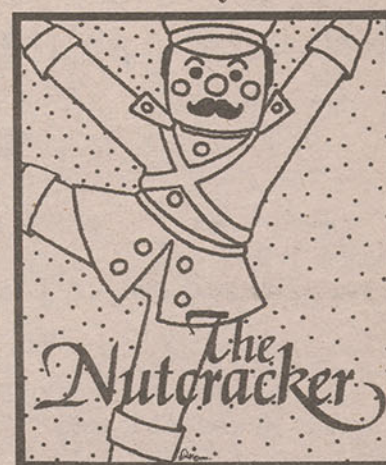
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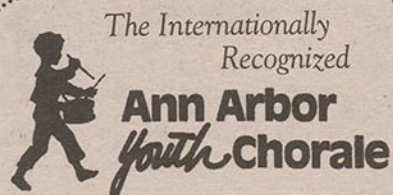
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Saturday, Dec. 20 - 2:00 and 8:00 pm
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Saturday, December 13

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5 FRIDAY EVENTS continued

Groups of participants are escorted between each of 10 rooms in the church building, where costumed actors create biblical scenes such as the Garden of Eden, the Roman census (male participants will have to register here and "pay" the Roman tax), the Bethlehem inn where Mary and Joseph were turned away, a Bethlehem street scene, and the journey of the Magi. Methuselah, Noah, and the prophets also make appearances, and there's an outdoor living Nativity and a final surprise in the sanctuary. Participants can see demos of biblical crafts, try out traditional dances, and sample a "1st-century snack." The limited number of tickets are expected to sell out almost immediately, so get yours fast. 7 p.m., *Dexter United Methodist Church, 7643 Huron River Dr., Dexter. Free, but tickets required. Preregistration recommended. 426-8251.*

★**"Festive Friday Holiday Nights": Main Street Area Association.** Every Friday through December 19. Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks beneath trees twinkling in 100,000 Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Tonight's entertainment includes performances by the **Boar's Tooth Dance Group**, the **Choral Connection Sweet Adelines** chorus, and the **Huron High School A Cappella Choir**. Also, **Flint's Antique Organ** street organ grinders (December 5, 12, & 19), the **Arbor Consort** madrigals chorus in period costume (December 5, 12, & 19), bagpiper **Herm Steinman** (December 5, 12, & 19), country singer-guitarist **Rick Smith** (December 5, 12, & 19), **Harmony 4 Fun** (December 12 & 19), and the barbershop quartet **Boys Night Out** (December 19). Also, tonight only **"Midnight Madness"** sales. Kids can drop off letters to Santa (see Up Front, p. 9) at a special mailbox at 347 S. Main (next to Generations) beginning November 28, with "postage to the North Pole compliments of the MSAA." 7-9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112.

★**Caroling Party: Kempf House Museum (Ann Arbor Parks Department).** All invited to gather at this historic home before heading out into the streets to sing Christmas carols, with accompaniment by the Salvation Army brass band. Carolers then return to the Kempf House for hot cider, cookies, and more caroling. Also, a chance to tour the Kempf House to view 19th-century Christmas decorations. 7 p.m., *Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free. 994-4898.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. MSU. 7:30 p.m., *Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. \$12-\$17. 764-0247.*

★**"The Impact of the PATRIOT Act on Civil Liberties": Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** Talk by American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan executive director Kary Moss. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a reception. Bring a beverage or dessert to share, if you like. 7:30 p.m., *Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.*

58 Greene. A cappella pop by this 13-member coed U-M student group named for a practice room deep in East Quad. 7:30 p.m., location TBA. Tickets (cost TBA) available in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and at the door. 763-TKTS.

Holiday Concert: Saline Varsity Blues. December 5-7. This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7-18 presents a program of cabaret-style performances. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 5) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 6 & 7), *Saline High School, 7190 N. Maple Rd., Saline. Cost TBA. 429-2103.*

26th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. December 5-7. Sparkling with medieval splendor, this elegantly elaborate pageant allegorizing Christ's victory over sin and death features a cast of more than 100 Concordia students and staff and area children. Originating in medieval England and celebrated for centuries at Cambridge and Oxford, the Boar's Head Festival combines religious pageantry and secular pomp, with musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. It offers vividly dressed Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. The peak of the festival is the presentation of a wild boar's head, a symbol of vanquished evil. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year, so get your tickets early. Note: The traditional dinner is not available to the public this year. 7:30 p.m., *Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$12 (ages 12 & under, \$8) in advance at the Krefl Center Box Office. 995-4612.*

★**"A Christmas Carol": U-M Clements Library.** Dickens scholar **Bert Hornback**, a U-M English professor emeritus, presents his very popular annual reading of the 19th-century novelist's beloved Christmas fable. As is his custom, Hornback performs as if he is Dickens himself, wearing Victorian costume and standing at a lectern that is a replica of Dickens's

own. Hornback has performed as Dickens throughout the world, and he so closely identifies with his alter ego that some people wonder if he doesn't secretly believe he is Dickens. Before the reading, Hornback usually indulges his political passions with a brief address on the current state of the world—something he insists Dickens, with his lively social conscience, would do if he were alive today. 7:30 p.m., *U-M Law School Hutchins Hall, 625 S. State. Free. 764-2347.*

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's play *The Portal of Initiation*. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. 8-9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway (1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes). Free. 662-6398.

1st Friday Square and Contra Dance. John Freeman and David Park Williams call contra, square, and old-timey dances to live music by Lickety Split. All dances taught; no partner necessary. Aspiring callers may preregister to call one dance. This dance "doesn't take itself as seriously as some of the other dances," notes Freeman. "The band's got a sense of humor, and so do I." 8-11 p.m., *Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$7 (students, \$5) at the door. 662-3371.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Last of this semester's readings by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: prose by **Travis Holland** and poetry by **Suzanne Hancock**. 8 p.m., *Michigan Union Kuenzel Room. Free. 764-6330.*

U-M Dicks & Janes. Concert by this 15-member coed a cappella ensemble whose current repertoire includes Lonestar's "Walking in Memphis," Nina Gordon's "Tonight and the Rest of My Life," and Peter Gabriel's "Blood of Eden." 8 p.m., *Rackham Auditorium. Tickets \$4 at the door only. 763-1107.*

Special Consensus: The Ark. This ace bluegrass band from Chicago, led by banjoist Greg Cahill, is known for high-energy, foot-stomping shows. Its repertoire includes traditional standards, originals, and contemporary tunes. Opening act is the **RFD Boys**, a veteran local bluegrass band. 8 p.m., *The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.*

"The Truth about Teeth": Dreamland Theater. December 5-7, 12-14, & 19-21. Dreamland Theater owner Naia Venturi directs San Francisco composer Jess Rowland's dadaist theater work about the American culture of teeth. Characters include the Time-Traveling Shopper Savers Card, Dr. Impervious Periwinkle, and the Evil Supermarket Checkout Guy. Free lollipops at the end of the show. 8 p.m., *Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti. \$10 (students & seniors, \$7). Reservations recommended. 657-2337.*

"Winter Wonderland": Dance Gallery Studio. Variety-show festival with performances by Dance Gallery members and students, including **Peter Sparling's** vibrant *Winter* set to Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. Also, music by fiddler **Jeremy Kittel** and pianists **John Earle** and **Tim Cheek**, a reading by poet **Keith Taylor**, and (tentatively) a Dickens reading by **Malcolm Tulip**. 8 p.m., *Washtenaw Community College Townsley Auditorium, 4800 Huron River Dr. Tickets \$10 (students and seniors, \$5) in advance at Dance Gallery and at the door. 747-8885.*

Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra: University Musical Society. Keith Lockhart and guest conductor and U-M president Mary Sue Coleman lead this 118-year-old ensemble, said to be the most recorded orchestra in the world, in a lively concert of light classics, traditional carols, and contemporary holiday music. The program of Christmas favorites includes a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by a surprise celebrity narrator, "It Came upon the Midnight Clear," "We Need a Little Christmas," and a sing-along. Guest performers are the **California State University Singers**, directed by John Alexander. Refreshments served on the main floor, and the concession stands are open. 8 p.m., *Crisler Arena. Tickets \$18-\$200 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.*

"Order and Chaos": U-M Dance Department Dance and Related Arts Concert. December 5 & 6. U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), *U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. \$5 at the door only. 763-5460, 763-5461.*

"Coppelia" and "Billy the Kid": EMU Music Department. EMU dance students present 2 ballets, Leo Delibes's 19th-century classic ballet *Coppelia* and Aaron Copland's rhythmically vigorous modern ballet *Billy the Kid*. The scores are performed by the



The local ensemble Sacred Song performs an evening of songs gathered from spiritual traditions worldwide, at Genesis of Ann Arbor Dec. 6.

EMU Symphony Orchestra and Wind Symphony. Also, the program is presented at 2 free children's concerts (reservations required) earlier today at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$8 (seniors & students, \$6) in advance, \$10 (students & seniors, \$8) at the door. 487-2282.

"Luck!": U-M Musical Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Murder in the Cathedral": Ave Maria College Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": U-M Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Xmas Carol": BlackBag Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Secret Garden": EMU Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Bell, Book, and Candle": P.T.D. Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Peter Berman: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 4 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

*"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. Tango dancing to recorded music. Note: People not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Union after 9 p.m., but those who arrive before 9 p.m. may remain through the end of the evening. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Michigan Union U-Club. Free. 973-2338.

1st Friday Dance: Parents Without Partners. All adults invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s-90s music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$7 (PWP members, \$5). 973-1933.

Big Al & the Heavyweights: The Firefly Club. Self-styled "gumbo" blues by this dance quartet from New Orleans led by drummer Al Lauro. Their repertoire ranges from New Orleans funk and Louisiana swamp rock to Texas and Chicago blues. Their Blueziana CD Hey, Hey Mardi Gras earned a New Orleans Grammy nomination for Blues Album of the Year. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$12 at the door only. 665-9090.

FILMS

M-Flicks. "The Legend of Drunken Master" (Chia-Liang Liu, 1994). Action-packed adventure about a martial arts master who forbids his son to practice the dangerous martial art of "drunken boxing"—but when the son's cornered by thugs, he runs out of options. Dubbed into English. FREE, but pass required (available at the UAC office in the Michigan Union). 763-1107. Natural Science auditorium (830 N. University), 8:30 p.m. Michigan Theater Founda-

tion. "Bus 174" (Jose Padilha, 2002). December 5-11. Brutal Brazilian documentary about a 2000 bus hijacking in Rio de Janeiro by a former street kid that draws a deft and disturbing portrait of the city's endemic social problems. Portuguese, subtitles. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

6 SATURDAY

Greens Market: Ann Arbor Farmers' Market. Sale of wreaths, ropes, bundles, boughs, swags, sprays, sprigs, garlands, festoons, and other festive permutations of holiday greens. 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Ann Arbor Farmers' Market (Kerrytown). Free admission. 994-FARM.

*"Breakfast with Santa": Ann Arbor Jaycees. All kids invited for a McDonald's breakfast and a chance to tell Santa about their Christmas wishes. 8-11 a.m., McDonald's, 2675 Plymouth Rd. Free. 913-9629.

*T'ai Chi. Every Saturday & Sunday. Local martial arts instructor Gabriel Chin leads a session of t'ai chi, which combines an exaggeratedly slow martial art and meditation. 8:30 a.m., the Cube, north side of Michigan Union. Free. 761-3272.

*"Late Fall Bird Walk": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to look for overwintering birds and waterfowl. Bring your bird book and binoculars. Hot drinks afterwards. 9 a.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Webster Twp. Free (\$4 per vehicle park entrance fee). 971-6337.

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Senior Center. Sale of arts and crafts, including Christmas ornaments, made by seniors and local artisans. Lunch (\$5) of sloppy joes, hot dogs, chicken soup, and desserts available after 10:30 a.m. Raffle. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., DSC, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 426-7737.

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Historical Society. Sale of "gorgeous handmade items" and Christmas crafts, many incorporating this year's theme of teddy bears. Bake sale. Bring your kids to pick up a free photo with Santa. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Dexter Museum, 3443 Inverness at Fourth, Dexter. Free admission. 426-2519.

Saline Community Education Craft Show. Juried show of works by 125 crafters from around the Midwest. Christmas greens available. Also, bake sale and other food concessions. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7286 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. \$2. 429-5922.

Annual Children's Festival and Holiday Bazaar: Rudolf Steiner School. The entire school is transformed into a children's festival, with the costume character of frosty old King Winter at the door to welcome kids. An activity room features crafts for kids, a children-only gift room has goodies priced for wee budgets, and a quiet tearoom offers massages for a nominal fee. One room offers Waldorf toys, which emphasize natural materials, and creative crafts and arts activities. Also, puppet storytelling and an artisan market bazaar. Faculty and staff are on hand to an-

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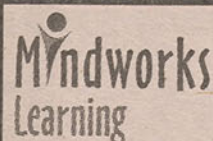
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6 SATURDAY EVENTS continued

swer questions about the school. Lunch available, including lasagna by Cousins Heritage Inn and dishes by area restaurants. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995-4141.

★**"Self, Cognition, and Emotion": U-M Psychology Department.** December 6 & 7. Two days of talks by U-M faculty and visiting faculty from Kyoto University. Talk topics include nonhuman cognition, the way memory stores information, the nature of happiness, and more. Lunches included. For a schedule and to preregister, see www.psy.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/COE21/K-Msymposium/ 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (Dec. 6) & 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (Dec. 7), East Hall rooms TBA, 525 East University. Free. 763-2347.

★**Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Saturday & Sunday. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. Note: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. 10 a.m. (Saturdays only) & 1 p.m. (both days), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 913-9851.

★**Walk: Grex.** Every Saturday (different locations). All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Park (December 6) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (December 13, 20, & 27). 10 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Park (Dec. 6) & in Gallup Park parking lot (Dec. 13, 20, & 27), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 930-6564.

★**Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library.** For holiday gift shoppers, a wide selection of used books that look new. Also, a separate room with children's books in mint condition (limit 10 children's books per family). 10 a.m.-4 p.m., AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Wheelchair-accessible. Free admission. 327-4560.

★**"The Himalayan Bazaar in My Garage."** December 6, 13, & 20. Sale of a wide range of unique Nepalese gift items by Heather O'Neal, who regularly travels to the Himalayas for her adventure tour business of Global Interest. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free admission. 369-3107.

★**"Holiday Tile Extravaganza": Motawi Tile-works.** All invited to tour the studio, decorate a 4-by-4-inch tile to be glazed and fired for later pickup, and see demonstrations on mounting a tile table top (2 p.m.), press-molding a tile (2 p.m.), and glazing (1 & 3 p.m.). Also, studio tours (11 a.m., noon, 1, 2, 3, & 4 p.m.) and a sale of Motawi tiles. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 170 Enterprise Dr. (off Jackson Rd. east of Baker). Free. 213-0017.

★**2nd Annual Holiday Shopping Mart: Ann Arbor Country Club.** Show and sale by 55 vendors of sock dolls, charm bracelets, table linens, soaps, knitted hats, glassware, Longaberger baskets, ties, cookbooks, jewelry, stationery, and more. Soup and sandwiches available. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., AACC, 4699 E. Loch Alpine Dr. Free admission. 426-4693.

★**"Friends of 4 Friends Holiday Show."** Show and sale of antiques and items made by local artists, including jewelry, stained glass, soap, woodcarvings, pottery, and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds Building, Old US-12 at Manchester Rd., Chelsea (take I-94 to exit 159 north; go north 1 mile and turn west on Old US-12; the fairgrounds are 1/4 mile down on the left). Free admission. 475-9730.

★**Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild.** December 6 & 7. A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics, in porcelain and both regular and white stoneware clays. Also, a children's corner, with toys, jewelry, and other gifts priced for their budgets. Items go fast—arrive early for the best selection. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 201 Hill. Free admission. 663-4970.

★**"Christmas on the Farm": Waterloo Area Farm Museum.** December 6 & 7. This 19th-century German immigrant family's pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. Natural decorations of cedar, pinecones, nuts, flowers, and herbs festoon the main house, where guides in period costume explain holiday preparations that typically would have been going on in each room. Christmas music tinkles from dulcimers and the parlor melodeon to complement singers TBA, as aromas of wild game, squash, and potatoes waft from the kitchen's woodstove. Free hot spiced cider and cookies in the farm's separate log cabin, decorated 1850s style. Also, a gift shop with old-fashioned toys, books, handmade soaps and candles, fresh greenery items, and other unique stocking stuffers. Refreshments. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 6),

noon-5 (Dec. 7), Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo-Munith Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. (From exit 153 on I-94, follow Clear Lake Rd. to Waterloo Village.) \$1 admission. 426-9135, (313) 278-3701.

★**15th Annual Festival of Lights: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 5 Friday. Today's special events: a visit from Santa (1-4 p.m.) and a Yule Tree Gala (noon-5 p.m.) at the Chelsea Center for the Development of the Arts (400 Congdon), and a twilight home tour (ticket price TBA) that begins at 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 121 E. Middle. At Pierce's Pastries Plus (11 a.m.-2 p.m.), live music by harpist Laurel Federbush and a visit from St. Nicholas with European Christmas stories. Also, artists' shop, and live music throughout downtown. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

★**21st Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 5 Friday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

★**"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Exhibit Museum Discovery Day.** This family-oriented dinosaur program includes hands-on activities for kids, demonstrations, and more. Highlights include "Reptiles Then and Now" (every 30 minutes beginning 10:30 a.m.), a talk by science illustrator Brian Cressman, with live reptiles and dinosaur fossils and casts. Also, informal talks by Exhibit Museum preparators Dan Erickson and Mike Cherney about the recent renovation of the museum's Edmontosaurus dinosaur exhibit, including a discussion of the 3-dimensional pantograph used to resize bone casts for the exhibit. At 2 p.m. in the dental school Kellogg Auditorium next door to the Exhibit Museum, U-M paleontologist Jeff Wilson discusses "India's New Dinosaur: *Rajasaurus narmadensis* and Other Prehistoric Creatures." Q&A. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes Ave. Free. 764-0478.

★**"Stealing the Electronic Ballot Box": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley.** U-M Institute for Social Research data archives specialist Larry Kestenbaum, a former Ingham and Washtenaw county commissioner, discusses the dangers that on-line voting and other kinds of electronic balloting pose to the integrity of elections. Discussion follows. Refreshments. All invited. 10 a.m.-noon, Peace Neighborhood Center, 1111 N. Maple. Free. 975-0861.

★**Saturday Morning Physics: U-M Physics Department.** December 6 & 13. Popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M and guest faculty on cutting-edge research. Today: U-M physics lecturer Sa-Lin Cheng Bernstein discusses "Why Make Holes in Superconductors?" Also this month: Cheng discusses "Where Does the Real World Meet Superconductors?" (December 13). Breakfast refreshments. 10:30-11:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 501 East University. Free. 764-4437.

★**Santa: White Rabbit Toys.** Every Saturday & Sunday through December 21. Santa stops by to restock his sleigh, listen to kids' wish lists, and distribute candy canes. Parents, bring cameras. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., White Rabbit, Traver Village Shopping Center, Plymouth Rd. at Nixon. Free. 665-1555.

★**Children's Storytime: Nicola's Books.** Every Saturday. Stories for kids by local storytellers. Also, today only, Beverly Black brings her Celtic harp for a selection of songs, and characters in costume from the Youth Dance Theater's production of the Nutcracker visit. 11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

★**Trunk Shows: Heavenly Metal.** December 6, 13 & 20. Show and sale of works by local artists. Today: "visually delicate yet funky" multimedia "EuroKraft" designs by jeweler Melissa Kamm. Also this month: fiberart purses, totes, and backpacks by Wendy Krabbe, and recycled silk scarves by Dede Fuleky (December 13). Also, a "Not to Worry Down to the Wire Last Minute Shopping Trunk Show Medley" featuring works by jeweler Christine Schopieray, fiber artist Raquel Weber, and other local artists (December 20). 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Heavenly Metal (inside Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts), 207 E. Ann. Free admission. 663-4247.

★**Art and Craft Sale: Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living/Art Oasis.** Sale of holiday cards made by local women prison inmates and watercolor paintings, pottery, photography, and jewelry by local artists. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Center for Independent Living, 2568 Packard (in Georgetown Mall). Free admission. 761-5616.

★**Dexter's Victorian Christmas: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** December 6 & 13. The Dexter of yesteryear is resurrected as carolers stroll the streets and shopkeepers and others dress in Victorian costume. Horse-drawn sleigh rides (nominal fee TBA) available throughout the day, and Santa is on hand to talk with kids and have photos taken with them for free. Live reindeer. Food for sale. Also, a Victorian tea (price TBA) at Heritage Inn, 3-5 p.m. Today's special events: holiday bazaars, with demon-

strations by a variety of craftspeople. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., downtown gazebo, near Monument Park, Dexter. Free admission. 426-0887.

Weaving Hope for Women: Women's Foundation of Nepal. Sale of traditional Nepalese crafts, including clothing, bags, scarves, runners, and tablecloths made from *dhaka*, the traditional cloth of Nepal. Also, Pashmina wool scarves and shawls, silver gemstone jewelry, and handmade paper products. Proceeds support a Nepalese battered women's shelter, economic empowerment for women, literacy programs, and refugee resettlement from the civil war in Nepal. Refreshments. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free admission, 761-1800.

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. Every Saturday. All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. 11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. and Huron River Dr.), Dexter. \$4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: \$4 per vehicle.) 434-1615.

Today's Brass Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House "Croissant Concert." A popular holiday tradition featuring this ensemble of area professional musicians that today performs pop, classic, and holiday tunes. Quintet members, who also offer commentary about the composers and works, are French hornist Steven Mumford, trombonist Brian Robson, tubaist Joseph DeMarsh, and trumpeters Jean Moorehead Libs and David Ammer. Croissants, coffee, and juice included. 11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25. Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

"The Stars of Autumn"/"Season of Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Every Saturday & Sunday through December 14. *The Stars of Autumn* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the stars, constellations, and planets visible in the autumn sky. *Season of Light* (12:30 p.m. Saturdays only and 2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. Note: A new planetarium show opens December 20 (see listing). 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$3.50. 764-0478.

"Nutcracker: 35th Annual Holiday Dance": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. December 6 & 7. Heidi Bisto leads a company of dancers ages 6-18 in a traditional production of Tchaikovsky's popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. Guest dancers are Ypsilanti mayor Cheryl Farmer and Ypsilanti fire chief Tom Yurkunas. 12:30 & 4 p.m., Ypsilanti High School, 2095 Packard. Tickets \$12 in advance in Ann Arbor at the Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium Blvd.) and at the door. 482-6131.

***Mech Warrior and Warhammer 40K Tournaments: The Underworld.** Every Saturday. All invited to play one of these very popular tactical miniature board games. Prizes. 1-5 p.m., *The Underworld*, 1202 South University. Free. 998-0547.

German Family Christmas: Kempf House Museum (Ann Arbor Parks Department). December 6, 7, 13, & 14. This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical turn-of-the-century German American celebration of Christmas. 1-4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. \$1 (children under 12, free). 994-4898.

***"Birds in Winter": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck discusses which birds winter in Michigan and how they survive. 2 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. and Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: \$4 per vehicle.) Pre-registration required. 426-8211.

"Hidden Lake Gardens Hike": Sierra Club. All invited to join club members for a hike, just under 4 miles, along the trails of this giant, pretty MSU-administered educational arboretum offering thousands of labeled plants and currently decorated for Christmas. Live music by musicians TBA. Refreshments. 2 p.m., meet outside the Cottage Inn in the Saline Shopping Center, 501 E. Michigan Ave., Saline, to carpool. Small admission fee TBA. 428-0887.

***Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** Every Saturday & Sunday. 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. 2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764-0478.

ed to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764-0478.

***"How Do I Begin: Science Fair Ideas": Ann Arbor District Library.** December 6 & 9 (different branch locations). Local public school science teachers offer tips for middle school students on selecting a science fair project. Also, displays of experiment books, research materials, and useful websites. 2-3 p.m. (Dec. 6), AADL main library, & 7-8 p.m. (Dec. 9), Northeast Branch. Free. 327-8301 (main library), 327-4200 (Northeast Branch).

***"The End of Detroit: How the Big Three Lost Their Grip on the American Car Market": Barnes & Noble.** New York Times auto industry reporter Micheline Maynard signs copies of her new book. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

***"5th Annual Tuba Christmas."** All invited to listen to or perform in (bring your instrument) an outdoor concert of holiday carols performed on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of innumerable outdoor tuba concerts held across the nation and in Canada today, in memory of tuba legend William Bell. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M music school begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books available (\$10). 2 p.m., State St. at North University. Free (performers, \$5). 972-4113.

Kids Drum Circle with Muruga and Oz: Oz's Music. All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by veteran Detroit percussionist Muruga Booker. 3 p.m., Oz's Music, 1920 Packard. Donation. 662-8283.

***ASL/Silent Coffee Hour.** All hearing and deaf American Sign Language speakers invited to an hour of chat in American Sign Language (ASL). 4 p.m., Eastern Accents, 214 S. Fourth Ave. Free. fab@umich.edu.

***"In Good Company African American Book Club": Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion of *Sex Life*, A. A. Clifford's futuristic sci fi novel about a disease that puts a perilous wrinkle in the human condition. 4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. Information: Veleria Banks at (734) 942-6013.

***Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Edward Parmentier conducts this music-student ensemble in a concert of motets by Tallis and Ferrabosco, madrigals by Monteverdi and Marais, and chamber music by Rameau, Frescobaldi, Schuetz, and others. 4 p.m., U-M School Organ Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0583.

***Cultural Show: Children's Russian Club.** Local Russian children present the club's staged version of two adaptations of Russian literary works. The first, based on Pushkin's tale *The Fisherman and the Goldfish*, deals with a fisherman, his greedy wife, and a magical fish. Also, a staged version of *Hussar Ballad*, Ryazanov's 1962 musical-comedy film based on *Long Long Ago*, Gladkov's play about Napoleon's disastrous invasion of Russia. The plays are performed in Russian, with English-language synopses provided. 5 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts and Sciences Bldg. Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 741-1953.

***"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.** This popular monthly 6-hour festival of Japanese animation features episodes from TV shows and occasional full-length films TBA. Tonight's picks TBA. Japanese, subtitles. Raffle and sale of T-shirts. U-M campus admission policy: No one 18 or under admitted without an adult. 5 p.m.-midnight, Modern Languages Auditorium 3, 812 E. Washington. Free. umich.edu/~animania.

***"28th Annual Holiday Parade in Saline": Saline Area Chamber of Commerce.** Holiday fun highlighted by a parade (5:30 p.m.), down Michigan Avenue from Davenport Street, featuring Santa, Mrs. Claus, and live reindeer. Preceded by dance performances by local dancers and followed by a concert by the popular Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic. 5:30 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429-4494.

***Open Role-Playing Gaming Night: The Underworld.** Every Saturday. All invited to play any of the role-playing games that the Underworld carries, but you must find your own opponents. 6 p.m.-midnight, *The Underworld*, 1214 South University. Free. 998-0547.

"Under the Tuscan Moon": 28th Annual St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Holiday Ball. Lavishly decorated Italian-themed gala with cocktails and a gourmet dinner, followed by ballroom dancing to the Detroit-area Cassens Murphy Band. This annual fund-raiser is one of the largest and most successful in the country. All decorations may be previewed and purchased (2-4 p.m.), for pickup tomorrow. Proceeds benefit the purchase of a new MRI. 6 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 Hewitt Rd. (just south of Rynearson Stadium), Ypsilanti. \$1,250 per couple. Reservations required. 712-4040.

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December 7 - Solo & Ensemble Recitals
Hourly, Noon-6 PM, Kerrytown Concert House

December 13 - Jazz Holiday Showcase
All SPA-AA Jazz Ensembles - 4 PM, The Firefly Club

December 13 - Youth Orchestra Concerts
3 PM, Michigan Theater

December 14 - SCORE Concert
4 PM, Greenwood Church

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6 SATURDAY EVENTS continued

"Family Latke Hop": Jewish Community Center. Dinner from Afternoon Delight, with dancing to live music, kids games and craft activities, and a community candle lighting ceremony. 6-9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$10 (kids, \$5). Reservations requested. 971-0990.

★Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Women's Gymnastics. The U-M women's gymnastics team, a perennial Big 10 champion that finished 5th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2003-2004 season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

★15th Annual Festival of Lights: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. See 5 Friday. The festival concludes with a Holiday Festival of Carols at the Chelsea Retirement Community, 809 W. Middle St. 7 p.m.

"Christmas Odyssey": Dexter United Methodist Church. See 5 Friday. 7 p.m.

Hip-Hop Night: The Neutral Zone. Performances by local hip-hop artist **OneManArmy**, by the DJ crew **The Unfadeables**, and by youth artists **Mr. E. Ink** and **Odyssey**. 7-11 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main. \$5. 214-9995.

"Bringing a Higher Consciousness to the Practice of Democracy." Talk by Detroit area minister **Marianne Williamson**, the author of *Everyday Grace: Having Hope, Finding Forgiveness, and Making Miracles*. Proceeds benefit RESULTS, a nonprofit group that lobbies to fight hunger and poverty. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Tickets \$25 (students, \$5) at the door only. 663-7493.

"8th Annual Evening of Sacred Song": Sacred Song. Rhonda Bantimba leads this 11-member local vocal ensemble in an evening of songs from numerous spiritual traditions worldwide. The concert features works performed a cappella and with instrumental accompaniment. Guest performers include **LaRon Williams**, **Jose Rosales**, **Yarrow Halstead**, **Robin Wilson**, Native American flutist **Lee Blackbear**, bassist **Rob Crozier**, and **Wines Elementary School** students. Proceeds benefit the Center for Independent Living and the Health Connexion. 7:30 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. \$5-\$20 sliding scale at the door only. 975-8791.

"Holiday Harmony": Huron Valley Harmonizers. Lynne Erskine Peirce directs this award-winning 50-voice men's chorus in a program of 4-part barbershop singing of a variety of holiday songs. Also, performances by **Novelty Shop**, an all-star quartet featuring Harmonizers director Peirce that performs song parodies, and **Altar Ego**, a Detroit-area trio that performs gospel songs. 7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. \$15 (students & seniors, \$12) in advance and at the door. 495-3321.

★Jana: U-M Office of Multiethnic Affairs. Gospel-inflected urban dance-pop by this Native American vocalist, a member of the Lumbee tribe in North Carolina. She has scored a number of dance hits, including an improbable dance remake of **Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven"** that reached #6 on the *Billboard* charts. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Union location TBA. Free. 763-9044.

26th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 5 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★Songs of Logan Skelton: U-M School of Music. U-M piano professor Skelton accompanies soprano **Jennifer Goltz** and baritone **Stephen Lusmann**. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz Dr., North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Terry Richards and Rosemary Caruso call contras to live music by Lansing's **Java Junkies**. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$8 (AACT-MAD members, \$7; students, \$5). 332-9024.

LGBT Dance Party: Out Loud. Dancing to music by a DJ. Age 21 & older admitted. A fund-raiser for Out Loud, a local chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. 8 p.m.-midnight, The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance only. 973-6084.

★EMU Women's Chorus: EMU Music Department. Ernest Brandon directs this EMU music-student choir in a program of seasonal music. 8 p.m., St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 120 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

Gimble. Peppy a cappella pop by this 18-member coed ensemble that, according to an organizer, "sprang from the lap of the U-M Arts Choral in ear-

ly 1997, when several choristers were caught singing the same song at the same time in harmony." The program includes **Tori Amos's "Caught a Lite Sneeze"**, "I Should Tell You" from the musical **Rent**, **Elton John's "Someone Saved My Life Tonight"**, and more. 8 p.m., Lorch Hall auditorium, 611 Tappan. Cost TBA. 763-1107.

"A Musical Holiday Celebration": EMU Music Department. The local men's chorus **Measure for Measure** joins the **EMU Brass Ensemble** and the **Motor City Brass Band** for a program of holiday choral music. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. \$12 (seniors, \$10; students, \$5) in advance and at the door. 487-1221, 487-2282.

★Women's Glee Club: U-M School of Music. Sandra Snow conducts this ensemble of music and non-music students in Faure's simple, charming *Messe Basse*, Charpentier's *Missa Brevis*, and works by **William Mathias** and **Rollo Dilworth**. 8 p.m., U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-0583.

48th Annual Study Break Concert: U-M Friars. This self-styled "crack squad of supercrooners," an octet drawn from the Men's Glee Club, is joined by Detroit-area a cappella group **The Grunyons**. The program of pop tunes includes material from the Friars' latest CD, *Brewhaha*, which features such toe-tappers as "Out on the Diag," "That'll be the Day (You Date Me)," and "Where da Party at / Ride wit Me." 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets \$5 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, \$6 at the door. 763-TKTS.

125th Annual "Messiah": University Musical Society. December 6 & 7. The annual **University Choral Union** performance of Handel's beloved oratorio, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) **Henry Frieze** led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led the next winter to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. This year's *Messiah* features the "Mozart" edition of the work, to which Mozart added additional orchestration. **Jerry Blackstone** directs the chorus and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra**. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano **Dominique Labelle**, local countertenor **David Daniels**, tenor **Steven Tharp**, and bass-baritone **Michael Dean**. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$12-\$24 in advance at the Michigan League and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

U-M Contemporary Improvisors: Canterbury House. Canterbury House's largest lineup ever features 23 U-M faculty and student improvisors in 3 ensembles. The **Faculty Improvisation Ensemble** makes its debut with clarinetist **Debra Chodacki**, hornist **Soren Hermansson**, flugelhornist **Ed Sarath**, tubaist **Fritz Kaenzig**, double bassist **Diana Gannett**, and percussionist **Michael Gould**. Also, the 13-member **Creative Arts Orchestra**, which "raised the roof at this year's Edgefest," and the **Graduate Jazz Quartet**, with saxophonist **Daniel Puccio**, pianist **Mark Siegenthaler**, double bassist **Brad Townsend**, and drummer **Nicolai Zielinski**. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5-\$10 donation. 764-3162.

"Order and Chaos": U-M Dance Department Dance and Related Arts Concert. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Luck!": U-M Musical Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Murder in the Cathedral": Ave Maria College Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 4 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": U-M Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Secret Garden": EMU Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Truth about Teeth": Dreamland Theater. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Bell, Book, and Candle": P.T.D. Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Xmas Carol": BlackBag Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Peter Berman: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Paul Keller Ensemble: The Firefly Club. High-energy mainstream jazz by this popular local ensemble led by bassist **Keller** that features 3 horns. Tonight it celebrates the release of its new CD, *Christmas Songs for Jazz Lovers*. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.,

Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$10 at the door only. 665-9090.

"Johnny Cash Tribute": The Blind Pig. Several top local country-, folk-, rockabilly-, and bluegrass-based bands and singer-songwriters perform the music of the late country icon. Performers: **Black Forest Girls, Chris Buhalis, Corndaddy, Laura Davidson, Delta 88, The Hillrays, Ingham County Regulars, Eric Kelly, Paul Lippens, Jo Serrapere & the Willie Dunns, Erin Schultz & Trailer Park Barbie, Honest D. Smith & the Steel Reserve, Jack Spack, Starlight Drifters, Widowmaker, and Chad Williams.** Proceeds benefit the Humane Society. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.). **The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. \$7 (ages 18-20, \$10) at the door only. 996-8555.**

FILMS

MTF. "Bus 174" (Jose Padilha, 2002). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **U-M Center for Chinese Studies. "Breathing Lessons"** (Jessica Yu, 1996). Oscar-winning documentary about Mark O'Brien, a poet-journalist who lived for over 4 decades paralyzed and in an iron lung. Mandarin, subtitles. No children under 12 admitted. FREE. 764-6308. Angell Hall Auditorium A, 8 p.m.

7 SUNDAY

***Falun Gong Instruction.** Every Sunday. Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. 8:30-10:30 a.m., **Gallup Park boathouse (west of Huron Pkwy.).** Free. 332-0680.

***Shorinji Kempo.** Every Sunday. This Japanese self-defense system combines hard and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. 9-11 a.m., **Arts in Motion Dance Studio, 2839 Boardwalk.** Free to first-time visitors (\$25 monthly dues). 332-1780.

***Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry.** Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. 9:30-11 a.m., **Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's).** Free, but donations accepted. 477-5848.

***"The Conservation of an Antique Book": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship.** Talk by U-M Bentley Historical Library document restorer James Craven. 10 a.m., **Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin.** Free. 971-8638.

***Ultimate Frisbee: H.A.C. Ultimate.** Every Sunday. All invited to a pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. 10:30 a.m., **Mitchell Field.** Free. 995-1621.

Hanukkah Bazaar: Beth Israel. Sale of Judaica, Hanukkah gifts, and other gift items from local artisans and vendors. Kids craft area. Light latke lunch available. 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., **Beth Israel, 2000 Washtenaw.** Free. 663-5543.

Ann Arbor Artisan Market. Every Sunday through December 21. This seasonal arts market features a wide variety of local artisans' fine arts and crafts, including jewelry, stained glass, paintings, photographs, clothing, and household items. Craft demonstrations. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., **Ann Arbor Farmers' Market (Kerrytown).** Free admission. 262-1004.

***First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** Every Sunday. A weekly program open to all single adults age 50 & older interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: Katie Haminac discusses **"Healthy Foods"** that prevent and fight cancer. Also this month: **Ann Arbor News** sports columnist Jim Carty discusses **"Sports"** (December 14), informal holiday socializing (December 21), and informal discussion of the year's events and New Year's resolutions (December 28). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at **Cafe Marie** in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). 11 a.m., **First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw.** Free. 662-4466, ext. 43.

***21st Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.** See 5 Friday. Also today: **A Christmas concert** (3-4 p.m.). Program: a prelude by organist Paul Walker, carols by a flute ensemble, Handel's "For unto Us a Child Is Born" by a string trio, Vaughan Williams's "Fantasia on Greensleeves" by cellist Nathan Jasinski, "Haste, Ye Shepherds" from Bach's **Christmas Oratorio** by trombonist Bill Mathis, the 17th-century carol "Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella" by vocalist Selene Whalen, Christmas hymns by a men's chorale, Alfred Burt's "Some Children See Him" by vocalist Greg Hansen, and a medley of traditional carols by the First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir. Also, the women's vocal ensemble One Accord performs

Keel's "Lullaby," Praetorius's "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," and Alfred Burt's "O Harken." 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

***1st Sunday Hot Sauce Tasting: Tios Mexican Cafe.** Tios managers Tim Seaver (at the East Huron Street location) and Jamie Campbell (at the Washtenaw location) offer samples of the hundreds of hot sauces and salsas available at this popular Mexican diner. Work your way through 100 sauces and you'll get a free T-shirt. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., **Tios Mexican Cafe, 333 E. Huron & 2224 Washtenaw (at Hewitt).** Free. 761-6650, 528-4444.

***Newcomers Day: Karma Thegsum Choling.** KTC staff members introduce Buddhist thought and demonstrate basic meditation practices. Refreshments. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., **KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller).** Free. 761-7495.

Silent Meditation: Essence Point. December 7, 14, & 21. Unguided 45-minute silent meditation period. All invited. Noon-1 p.m., **Guild House, 802 Monroe.** Donations appreciated. 741-0478.

***Hero Clix Tournament: The Underworld.** Every Sunday. All invited to play this tactical miniatures board game based on battles between different superheroes. With prizes from the manufacturer, WizKids. Noon-4 p.m., **The Underworld, 1202 South University.** Free. 998-0547.

***Winter Concerts: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** December 7, 13, & 14 (different programs and locations). This local performing-arts organization for kids and adults presents holiday and classical music concerts showcasing student ensembles. Today: hourly solo and ensemble student recitals. Noon-6 p.m., **Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave.** Free. Donations accepted. 995-4625.

7th Annual Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. Tour of a law office, a garden store, and 6 private homes, all lavishly decorated for Christmas. Highlights of this year's especially varied tour include a 12-foot-tall Nutcracker tree, a display of more than 100 "Dickens Village" pieces, an outdoor birdseed and peanut-butter-ball tree for the birdies, a cat tree, and trees decorated with everything from velvet to origami. "All of these people are over the top—this is gonna be some tour," an organizer promises. Proceeds benefit Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. Noon-5:30 p.m., various locations. Tickets \$12 in advance in **Ann Arbor at John Leidy**; in **Ypsilanti at Quinn's Essentials in Depot Town, Mantis Garden Supply, and Haab's Restaurant**; \$15 day of tour at **Cross Street Village senior housing.** 487-9669.

***15th Annual Children's Holiday Parade: Main Street Area Association.** Kids of all ages and their families (strollers welcome) are invited to don a costume if they like and join a downtown street parade starring Santa and Mrs. Claus who, in their reindeer-powered sleigh, lead floats, city fire engines, public school buses, costumed animal characters, and area high school marching bands (kazooos provided to observers). Scout and Brownie troops and groups of any kind can march together with an identifying banner. The parade starts at the Federal Building and goes down Liberty to Fourth Avenue to Washington to Main and winds up at a petting farm (1-3 p.m.) set up in the Detroit Edison parking lot at William. Afterward, free hot chocolate and cookies are available at **Palio**. Also, all invited to drop off their letters to Santa (see Up Front, p. 9) at the festive P.O. box in front of Generations. Noon (assembly), 12:30 p.m. (parade), **Federal Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Fourth Ave.** Free. 668-7112, ext. 32.

***Snowflake Cutting: Nicola's Books.** Tentative date. Local artist Thomas Clark demonstrates how to make elaborate cut-paper snowflakes. 1 p.m., **Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center.** Free. 662-4110.

Gays and Lesbians, Older and Wiser. Potluck and social gathering for gays and lesbians age 50 & older. Bring a dish to pass. 1-3 p.m., **Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd., Suite C.** \$2. 764-2556.

***Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Sunday. All seniors age 55 & older invited to play bridge. 1-3:30 p.m., **Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin.** Free. 769-5911.

***"1st Sundays @ 1": Ann Arbor Art Center.** Kids and their parents invited to learn about Brazil's Carnival and make a headdress. 1-2:30 p.m., **AAAC, 117 W. Liberty.** Free. 994-8004.

Festival Sale: 10,000 Villages of Huron Valley. Sale of handmade objects from more than 30 countries in Asia, Africa, and South America. Items include creches, purses, pottery, jewelry, tablecloths, musical instruments, Christmas ornaments, Haitian wall hangings, and fair trade coffee. 10,000 Villages is an organization committed to promoting fair trade

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classical music



Vox Christmas music

There are basically only two kinds of Christmas music: sacred and profane. The profane includes everything from "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" to "Jingle Bell Rock," and most of it is sentimental at best and inane at worst. The sacred includes everything from "O Little Town of Bethlehem" to "Away in a Manger," and most of it is nostalgic at best and insipid at worst. But while there is very, very little truly great profane Christmas music, there is an enormous amount of truly great sacred Christmas music. One has to go back to find it, back to a time before Christmas was a celebration of consumer capitalism, a time when Christmas was a celebration of the mystery of God-made-man. One has to go back beyond nostalgia to the sublime and numinous polyphonic Christmas music of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

In Ann Arbor that means going to the Christmas concert on Wednesday, December 3, by Vox. The latest in Ann Arbor's long, illustrious line of early-music groups, Vox is a vocal ensemble dedicated to the performance of medieval and Renaissance music. Founded in 2000 by Whitnie Crown Wolverton and under the artistic direction of Christopher Wolverton since its inception, Vox is currently the ensemble-in-residence at St. Thomas Catholic Church. It is an ideal match of performers, repertoire, and hall, the radiant clarity of the voices shimmering in the warmly reverberant acoustics of St. Thomas's nave.

That is particularly so in Vox's Christmas program, *In Dulci Jubilo*, a concert where luminous voices meet numinous music in the sweetest Christmas concert this side of the Great Divide. There's some plainchant on the program, but mostly there's polyphony—the angular lines of medieval carols, and the lushness of Renaissance motets. Highlights include the elated "Ave Maria" by Victoria and the ec-

static "Omnes de Saba" by Lasso, motets with polyphony bright, clear, and joyous. In an unusual step for an early-music concert, Vox also performs a newly commissioned work by U-M composer Kristin Kuster, "Rorate Caeli." Christopher Wolverton describes it as "quite a beautiful and interesting work . . . inspired by the plainchant . . . and quite a tour de force for the singers."

Along with Kuster's new work, Wolverton's program features some strangely familiar works. You'll recognize, for instance, the first part of the thirteenth-century setting of the medieval hymn "Veni, Veni, Emmanuel" as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," but the second part, with all its parallel fifths, is nothing like the nineteenth-century harmonization we're all used to—suddenly, the hymn sounds very medieval. "The subtext I had in mind when programming this concert was that everyone knows more early music than they realize!" says Wolverton.

—James Leonard

practices that offer "dignity, hope, and a living wage." 1–5 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 761-4578.

★2003 Lecture Series: Saguaro Nursery & Gardens. Every Sunday through December 21. Talks by Saguaro staff. Today's topic: "Colorful House Plants for Sunny Windows." Also this month: "How to Grow and Flower Jade and Other Desert Plants" (December 14) and "Gifts for Gardeners" (December 21). 1 p.m., Saguaro, 470 W. Five Mile Rd. (entrance off Whitmore Lake Rd.). Free. 449-4237.

Michigan Marching Band: U-M School of Music. A festive concert featuring highlights of past halftime shows and U-M school songs. 1:30 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets \$8 (kids 11 & younger, \$3) in advance at

Revelli Hall, 350 E. Hoover, and at the door. 764-0583.

★"Exploring a Red Maple Swamp": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads the inaugural hike in this newly purchased swatch of wetland tucked in the corner of a big field. Wear waterproof boots. 2 p.m., Devine Property, Liberty Rd. 1/4 mile west of Zeeb. Free. 971-6337.

★Guild Day: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to meet local neopagans and sit in on meetings of their Magicians (2–3 p.m.), Healers (3–4 p.m.), and Warriors (4–5 p.m.) guilds. 2–5 p.m., 263 Larkspur (take Pontiac Trail north and turn left onto Skydale, left onto Cloverdale, and right onto Larkspur). Free. 998-1029.

★Kids Open Mike: Oz's Music Environment. Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. 2 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1922 Packard. Free; donations welcome. Reservations required. 662-8283.

★"Kerry Tales: Lots of Lights with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops. 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Kerrytown first floor atrium (between the former Workbench store and the food court area). Free. 769-3115.

"Symphonic Impressions": Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in a program featuring Faure's

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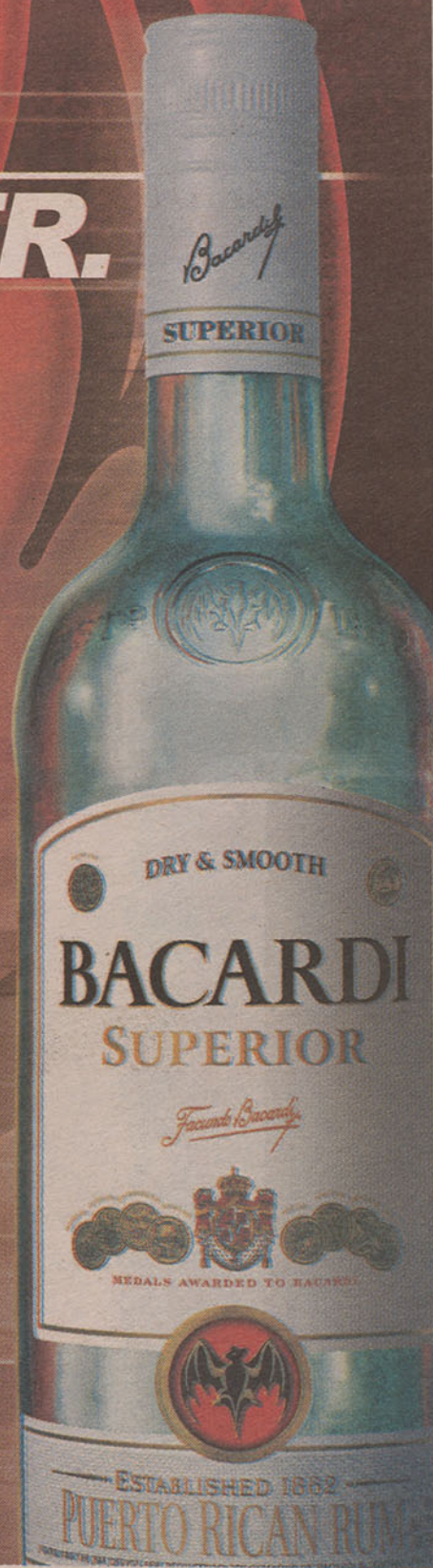
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7 SUNDAY EVENTS continued

Pavane, the Fanfare from Dukas's *La Peri*, Liszt's *Les Preludes*, and Franck's *Symphony in D Minor*. 2 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$12 (students & seniors, \$8) in advance and at the door. Season tickets available. 485-2947.

125th Annual "Messiah": University Musical Society. See 6 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Luck!": U-M Musical Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Xmas Carol": BlackBag Productions. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": U-M Theater Department. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

***Ann Arbor-Motown Hash House Harriers.** Every Sunday & occasional Mondays. The local chapter of an unorthodox running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's task is to follow a trail designed to be confusing. The usual result is that the lead (i.e., fastest) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer and pop hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant. 3 p.m. (Sun.) & 6:30 p.m. (Mon.), location TBA. Free. Weekly locations available at my.voyager.net/~tashjian.

***Astrology Study Group of Washtenaw County.** All invited to join this group discussion about astrology, share resources, delineate charts, and hear reports on astrology-related matters. 3-5 p.m., location TBA. Free. 320-2783.

Alternative Holiday Fair: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. This popular holiday sale encourages less consumer-oriented ways of celebrating the holidays. It features handmade arts and crafts—last year's highlight was a giant pile of breathtakingly beautiful, vivid, and intricate large *cuadros*, or cloth applique scenes. Also, jewelry and jewelry boxes, musical instruments, clothing, purses, scarves, pillows, and holiday decorations from Third World countries. Also, a chance to participate in the highly acclaimed Heifer International project by helping to pay for farm animals (some on hand and available for petting) for needy overseas farm families. Proceeds benefit local, national, and international peace and justice organizations. 3-7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free admission. 663-1870.

Hanukkah Bazaar: Temple Beth Emeth. Sale of gifts and Hanukkah items, including candles, menorahs, dreidels, gelt, toys, books, art objects, and Judaica by Tamara Baskin, Karen Rossi, Wynter Rosen, Gary Rosenthal, Sandra Magsamen, and local artists. 3-7 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Free admission. 665-4744.

***"Great Musical Events of the University Musical Society":** Ann Arbor District Library. Part of a series of talks, with recorded illustrations, by Ann Arbor District Library music specialist Richard LeSueur. Today: "Farewells and Welcomes, 1973-1992" includes recordings of the Vienna Philharmonic under Leonard Bernstein, the Leipzig Gewandhaus under Kurt Masur, and solo performances by James Galway, Vladimir Horowitz, Arleen Auger, Jessye Norman, and Hakan Hagegard. 3-4:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

***Family Event: U-M Museum of Art.** An afternoon of dynamic Congolese dance and drumming by 2 acclaimed Michigan-based groups, the Mbongi Dance Theater, led by dancer Titos Sompia, and Bichinis Bia Congo, led by dancer Biza Sompia. Also, a hands-on art project and a chance to tour the current exhibit *Masterworks of African Art*. 3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 764-0395.

***EMU University Choir: EMU Music Department.** Leonard Riccinto directs this music-student ensemble in a holiday choral celebration. 3 p.m., Holy Trinity Chapel, 511 W. Forest, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

"Holiday Pops": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus. Rebecca Vlisides directs this local chorus in a concert of holiday favorites, selections from Vivaldi's *Gloria*, a tribute to composer Harold Arlen, and "a dash of Gershwin." Accompanist is local pianist Joyce

Reese. 3 p.m., Slauson Middle School. Donation. 429-7323.

"Love Songs Through the Ages": Chaverim B'Shirim. This local Jewish choir performs love songs in Italian, Russian, Hebrew, Yiddish, and English. Refreshments. 3 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 donation. 971-0990.

Chelsea Chamber Players: Chelsea Musical Celebrations. Guest violinist Paula Elliott, who has performed with orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout the U.S. and Canada, joins this Chelsea chamber ensemble for performances of Faure's Piano Quartet and Brahms's Piano Quintet. Members: violinist Nathan Peters, violist Ian Cumming, cellist Sara Cumming, and pianist Renee Robbins. In conjunction with the Chelsea Festival of Lights. 3 p.m., First Congregational Church, 121 E. Middle, Chelsea. Tickets \$16 (seniors, \$12; youths, \$10) in advance and at the door. 475-7050.

***Seth Bernard & the Students of a New Paradigm: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** This local ensemble led by singer-songwriter Bernard performs traditional and unconventional spiritual music exploring the sacred and the absurd with an unpredictable mix of humor and reverence. 3-6 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-9468.

"Nutcracker: 35th Annual Holiday Dance": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 6 Saturday. 3 p.m.

***"A Hanukkah Present for You and Your Mother: Earth, That Is":** Temple Beth Emeth. A Michigan Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life member TBA discusses ways to conserve energy in the home. 3:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth chapel, 2309 Packard. Free. 665-4744.

***"The Lord of the Rings' and Philosophy":** First Unitarian Universalist Church. EMU history professor and Tolkien expert Rob Citino examines questions raised by Tolkien's allegorical fantasy, including whether power invariably corrupts, technology destroys what is human, and beer is essential to the good life. 4 p.m., First Unitarian Church Sanctuary, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Free. 665-6158.

***Hymn Sing: King of Kings Lutheran Church.** All invited to help decorate the Christmas tree and sing hymns. Bring cookies for a "cookie drive." 4 p.m., King of Kings Lutheran Church, 2685 Packard. Free. 971-1417.

***Pottery Videos: Yourist Pottery.** Screening of videos about Betty Woodman, the award-winning New York- and Italy-based potter who fashions large sculptural vessels, and Toshiko Takaezu, a Hawaiian-born potter known for elegantly simple stoneware vessels in earth tones. 4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1160 Broadway. Free. 662-4914.

26th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 5 Friday. 4 p.m.

***"Booked for Murder" Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss 2 Donna Leon mysteries, *A Noble Radiancy* and *Death at La Fenice*. 4:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 769-2149.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. December 7, 12, 13, 19, & 20. This Ann Arbor-based program features 46 of the best 16- and 17-year-old American ice hockey players under the guidance of U.S. National coach Moe Mantha. The program fields 2 teams—the Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team—that play full schedules, September-March, against teams from the top American junior leagues (players ages 18-21), American college teams, and comparable European national teams. Today: **Team USA Under-18 vs. Air Force.** Time TBA, Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. \$6 (students & children, \$4). 327-9251.

***Phil Berg: Nicola's Books.** Signing by this author of *Ultimate Garages*, Berg's up-close examination of "America's fascination with the garage." 7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

***15th Annual Festival of Lights: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 5 Friday. The festival concludes with a **Holiday Festival of Carols** at the Chelsea Retirement Community, 809 W. Middle St. 7 p.m.

Jeremy Kittel & Friends: The Ark. Ensemble led by U-M music student Kittel, a National Scottish Fiddle Champion and former member of the Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, whose repertoire includes traditional fiddle tunes and originals blending elements of classical, jazz, bluegrass, and other musical fiddle traditions. Kittel released his 2nd CD, *Roaming*, last winter, and in August he received the inaugural Daniel Pearl Memorial Violin, an award given in memory of the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in 2002. He is accompanied by guitarist John Behling, singer-song-

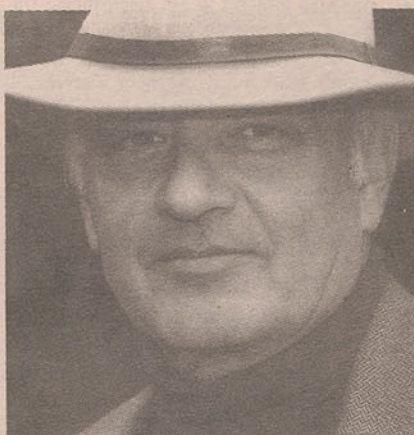
fiction

Nicholas Delbanco Memory and fiction

Nicholas Delbanco's 2000 novel *What Remains* takes its title from lines by Ezra Pound: "What thou lovest well remains, / the rest is dross." The phrase becomes the standard by which memories are measured, and the memories in this quiet little book seem to escape the realm of fiction and feel very much like memoir.

What Remains tells the story of a family of German Jews who have escaped from the Nazis a few years before escape became impossible. Karl, his wife, Julia, and his brother, Gustave, have made successful lives for themselves in London, the first brother in business and the second as an art dealer, and they live in comfort even during the worst of World War II. These are people who recite Goethe at the dinner table, play Mozart's chamber music together in the evening, and have a Kollwitz hanging on the wall. Although most of the book takes place in England during the last years of the war and the years immediately following, the family's immigration to America—at least the move by Karl, Julia, and their two sons, Jacob and Ben—is the action, set offstage, that gives poignancy to what is remembered. Karl defines the larger meaning of these moves in terms of his heritage: "In 1630 his family left Italy; in 1670 his ancestors were driven from Vienna and traveled on to Hamburg and resided there in comfort until Hitler threw them out. It isn't a question of whether but when: death and displacement will come."

The novel is framed by first-person chapters where Ben (who sounds suspiciously like Delbanco himself, even down to the names of his wife and daughters) returns to London to revisit the home where he lived as a very young child. When there, he is overwhelmed by memory: "For some time I wander around the locked house, full of nostalgia and what I can only call Proustian remembrance: this is the corner where that happened, here is



the window I rubbed at to peer through the chill wintry fog." Later he finds that he has visited the wrong house; his family actually lived a bit down the street. That uncertain certainty of memory gives this book its center; it also makes the book a "novel."

In *What Remains* Delbanco is concerned with how fragments of memory rise up and color the present. He cares deeply about the characters he is writing about, and the death of Julia, many years after the family arrives in this country, is as moving a piece of writing as this author has done in his twenty-some books. Delbanco has long been respected as a stylist, and I think this beautiful book of fragmented memory may contain his best marriage of style with content. It is impossible to imagine this story told any other way.

On Thursday, December 4, at the U-M, Delbanco will give his first local reading from his next novel, *The Vagabonds*, due out next fall. It is built around the camping trips Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and Henry Firestone used to take with John Burroughs, one of the fathers of the environmental movement. It is typical of Delbanco's imagination that he should stumble across such odd pairings and recognize the story that could be made from them.

—Keith Taylor

writer Seth Bernard, and others TBA. 7:30 p.m., *The Ark*, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 (students with ID, \$10) in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"Hair Beading for Magical Purposes":** Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path. All invited to learn to bead your hair "with magical intent under the full moon." Bring plastic pony beads and small rubber bands, or a \$3 donation. 8–10 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center yard, 1910 Hill. Free. 677-8211.

U-M Ballroom Dancers. Every Sunday except December 28. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by lessons and practice. 8–10 p.m., Michigan League Ballroom (Dec. 7) and Michigan Union Ballroom (Dec. 14 & 21). \$2. 763-6984.

★**"The Truth about Teeth":** Dreamland Theater. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. "Ring of Fire." Double bill of Emmy-winning documentary films about volcanoes in Indonesia. "Volcanoes of the Pacific Rim" (George Casey, 1991) examines Indonesian volcanoes and how Indonesians have adapted to their presence. "Beyond the Ring of Fire" (David Fanning, 1996) journeys to several of Indonesia's islands with volcanoes. FREE. 764-0352. 1636 SSWB (1080 South University), 1 p.m. MTF. "Bus 174" (Jose Padilha, 2002). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

8 MONDAY

★21st Annual Christmas Creche Display: Church

of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See 5 Friday. 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

★**Cricket Magazine 30th Anniversary.** Michigan children's authors Danielle Hammelef, B. J. Conner, Ann Finkelstein, Buffy Silverman, and Debbie Taylor read excerpts of their works in the Matthaei conservatory. In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the award-winning children's magazine *Cricket*. 10 a.m. & noon, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. Preregistration recommended. 998-7061.

★**"The Artist's Point of View":** U-M Center for European Studies "Taste of Europe." Slide-illustrated discussion led by Barbara Wojcik of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Bring a bag lunch. Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647-2743.

★**Women's Full Moon Ritual:** Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path. All women invited to join a spirituality circle and "attune with the moon and make magic for self, community, and world." 7–10 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center, 1910 Hill. Free. 677-8211.

★**The Barony of Cynnabar.** Every Monday except December 1. All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on recreating different aspects of medieval culture, including combat, dancing, singing, clothing, and many other arts & crafts. 7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at cynnabar.org.

★**"Careers in Alternative Health Care":** Center for the Education of Women. Talks by local alternative health providers, including chiropractor Andrea Bisson, midwife Mickey Sperlich, nutritionist Judy Stone, massage therapist Nancy Trudeau, and National Center for Women's Health founder Michelle Segar. 7–8:30 p.m., CEW, 330 E. Liberty. Free. 998-7080.

★**Simon Shaheen: University Musical Society.** December 8, 10, & 11 (different times & locations). This celebrated Palestinian-American oud virtuoso offers a series of interviews and mini-performances leading up to a January 31 concert. Tonight: Shaheen is interviewed by U-M senior vice president for academic affairs Lester Monts. 7–9 p.m., Michigan League Henderson Room. Free. 764-2538.

★**"Show and Tell":** Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table. Club members show and briefly discuss various Civil War-related items, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Previous highlights have included a set of very rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. 7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.), Superior Twp. Free. 930-0617.

★**Christmas Potluck:** U-M Alva Gordon Sink Alumnae Group. A chance to meet and chat with members of this group that funds scholarships for U-M students. All invited. Bring a dish to pass. 7:30 p.m., call for location. Free. 320-0146.

★**"Spiritual and Magical Uses of Herbs":** People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series. Talk by Ann Arbor Center for Holistic Health and Traditional Wisdom director Linda Feldt. 7:30–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994-4589.

★**Jennifer Fink: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This fiction writer, children's bookmaker, and teacher from Brooklyn, New York, reads from *Burn*, her acclaimed debut novel, set amid the political and sexual repression of the early 50s, about the relationship between a flamboyant middle-aged Jewish woman—a messy housewife, reluctant communist, and expert tomato gardener—and the mute, naked boy wearing only a dog tag who one day appears in her garden. The book has been called "a fable for the Bush/Rumsfeld era, a rewriting of the Adam and Eve myth, [and a] Faulkneresque tale of tomatoes, torture, and tangled love." Signing, refreshments. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

★**EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles:** EMU Music Department. John Dorsey and Donald Babcock direct these 2 music-student ensembles in a program of upbeat jazz standards and contemporary works. 8 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★**Jazz Guitar Ensemble:** U-M School of Music. Steven Carryer leads this music-student ensemble in a program TBA. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★**Symphony Band:** U-M School of Music. Michael Haitcock and Jamie Nix lead this music-student ensemble in works by McTee, Beethoven, Turrin, and Grantham. 8 p.m., Power Center. Free. 764-0594.

★**Faculty Recital:** U-M Residential College. A trio of RC music faculty—cellist Katri Ervamaa, percussionist Michael Gould, and trumpeter and electronic musician Mark Kirschenmann—perform Gould and Kirschenmann originals, along with contemporary works by Oliveros, Kagel, Sariho, and others. 8 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 276-4906.

★**"Scrooge Tells All":** The Ark. December 8–10. Royal Shakespeare Company actor John Kane performs Canadian playwright Avril Flanigan's 45-minute one-man show re-creating Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* as monologue by its central villain. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

FILMS

MTF. "Bus 174" (Jose Padilha, 2002). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

9 TUESDAY

★**"Our Struggle Is the Struggle of Memory against Forgetting: Language, Memory, and Identity in Navajo Women's Narratives":** Institute for Research on Women and Gender. Talk by U-M School of Public Health research scientist Amy Schultz. Noon, 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764-9537.

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House:** Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department. December 9 & 13. Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. This month's special activities include a chance to make holiday gifts out of recycled materials. 3–5 p.m. (Dec. 9) & 10 a.m.–noon (Dec. 13), Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994-2807.

★**"Will of Iron: A Champion's Journey":** Waldenbooks. Peter Nielsen is on hand to sign copies of his account of his odyssey from a weak,

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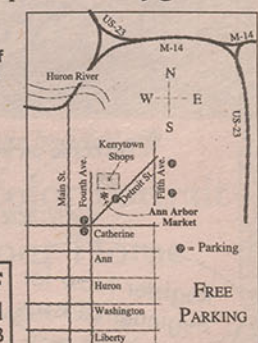
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9 TUESDAY EVENTS continued

sickly Brooklyn teenager to Mr. International Universe. 5-7 p.m., Waldenbooks, Briarwood mall. Free. 669-0785.

★**Community Book Study: Amistad Church.** December 9 & 23. All invited to join a continuing discussion of Wheelock College education professor Theresa Perry, Stanford psychology professor Claude Steele, and Georgia State University education professor Asa Hilliard's *Young, Gifted, and Black: Promoting High Achievement among African American Students*. "It's been an interesting discussion," notes the church's Rev. Herbert Lowe. 7 p.m., Amistad Church, 2730 Carpenter Rd. Free. 971-7626.

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & older invited to a screening of Hayao Miyazaki's 2002 animated *Spirited Away* (see 11 Thursday Films listing). Followed by discussion. Sherry & snacks served. 7-9 p.m., 1318 Markley Hall. Free. 764-2553.

★**Christmas Concert: Our Own Thing Choral.** Willis Patterson leads this vocal ensemble in a concert of African American Christmas music. Refreshments. 7 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Donation. 665-6158.

★**Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion of *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, Harvard sociologist Robert Putnam's controversial study of the recent plunge in Americans' participation in civic and social activities. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 332-0207.

★**Benefit Wine Tasting and Auction: Ann Arbor Film Festival.** Wine tasting, and a silent auction of wines and a variety of items donated by downtown merchants. Proceeds benefit the Film Festival. 7:30 p.m., Cafe Felix, 204 S. Main. Tickets \$25 in advance and at the door. 995-5356.

★**Barbara Brodsky: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Trained in both the Buddhist and Quaker traditions, Brodsky is the guiding teacher of the local Deep Spring Center. She reads from *Presence, Kindness, and Freedom: Aaron's Teachings on Living from an Open Heart*, a collection of the teachings of the "being of light" she channels. Signing, refreshments. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

★**EMU Collegium Concert: EMU Music Department.** Anthony Iannaccone directs EMU music faculty and students in a program of 17th- and 18th-century choral and instrumental music. 8 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Washtenaw at Washington, Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

★**Edward Parmentier and Andrew Jennings: U-M School of Music.** Harpsichordist Parmentier and violinist Jennings, both U-M music professors, perform Bach sonatas and fugues. 8 p.m., Blanche Anderson Moore Hall, 1100 Baitz. Free. 764-0594.

★**Choir Concert: U-M School of Music.** Sandra Snow leads the University Choir in works by Gabrieli, Palestrina, Britten, Howells, Mendelssohn, and Hopkins. Jerry Blackstone leads the Chamber Choir in works by Sweelinck, Stoltzer, Conte, Rachmaninoff, and Jolas. 8 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 764-0594.

★**"Scrooge Tells All": The Ark.** See 8 Monday. 8 p.m.

★**"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above.** See 2 Tuesday. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

FILMS

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** "Spirited Away" (Hayao Miyazaki, 2001). See Events listing above. MTF. "Bus 174" (Jose Padilha, 2002). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Projectorhead. "Star Wars" (George Lucas, 1977). The original space saga. 764-0147. Modern Languages II (812 E. Washington), 7 p.m. The Underworld. "Anime Night." See 2 Tuesday. The Underworld, 9-11 p.m.

10 WEDNESDAY

★**"The Firebird": Wild Swan Theater.** December 10-14. This award-winning local children's theater presents Russia's most famous folktale. In the course of a perilous journey to recover the cheeky Firebird, who's been swiping the czar's apples, young Prince Ivan must overcome the horrible witch Baba Yaga, Nurl the Gnome, and Sitchik the Snake King. Live balalaika music by local musicians David Mosher and Nan Nelson. Appropriate for kids 5-12. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by pre-arrangement for blind audience members. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E.

Huron River Dr. Tickets \$9 (children, \$7) in advance and at the door. 995-0530.

★**Ann Arbor Magic Club.** All amateur and professional magicians invited to an evening of socializing and discussion of the magical arts. 7 p.m., Domino's Farms, Lobby G, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. 482-9253.

★**Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys, including the "Lego Sumobot" and the "Jeep Sumobot." Legos Mindstorms robots and radio-controlled cars available for kids entertainment. 7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Jackson Rd., behind KFC). Free. 332-1000.

★**"Amateur Radio": Arrow Communication Association Amateur Radio Club.** "Ragchewing and socializing," followed by a talk by a club member TBA. All invited. If you get lost on the way, tune in to 146.96 "and we'll talk you in." 7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College room TBA, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors (\$20 annual dues). 930-6564.

★**Wild Ones.** Members give short slide-illustrated talks about landscaping with native plants. Also, a potluck (bring a dish to pass). All invited. 7 p.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens room 125, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 622-9997.

★**"So I've Read Harry Potter—Now What?": Barnes & Noble.** All young readers invited to join a discussion of *Coraline*, Neil Gaiman's deliciously creepy tale about a young woman who finds herself in an alternate universe when she opens a long-closed door in her new flat. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 973-1618.

★**Simon Shaheen Residency Events: University Musical Society.** See 8 Monday listing. Tonight: Shaheen gives a talk titled "Introduction to Arab Music 101." 7-9 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 764-2538.

★**Orchestra Concert: Greenhills School.** Neal Donato leads the middle school orchestra and Debbie Henderson leads the high school orchestra in a program that ranges from classics to jazz. 7:30 p.m., Greenhills Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205-4057.

★**Robert Kesling: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This U-M paleontology and geology professor emeritus, a regular contributor to *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, reads from his new fiction collection, *365 Short-Short Stories*. Signing, refreshments. 8 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662-7407.

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra and University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Jonathan Shames leads the Philharmonic in works by Franck and in Mozart's *Haffner Symphony*, originally a lengthy wedding serenade shortened to a symphony. Kenneth Kiesler leads the Symphony in works by Lutoslawski. 8 p.m., Power Center. Free. 764-0594.

★**"Scrooge Tells All": The Ark.** See 8 Monday. 8 p.m.

★**"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company.** See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★**"Comedy Jamm Night": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** December 10 & 17. Performances by aspiring stand-up comics and by established area pros coming out to work on new material. The show concludes with a performance by the improv troupe *Beer Money*. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

FILMS

★**Michigan Theater Foundation.** "It's a Wonderful Life" (Frank Capra, 1946). Sentimental classic about a man who gets a second chance at life on Christmas Eve. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. FREE. 668-8397. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "Bus 174" (Jose Padilha, 2002). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA. U-M Film & Video. "In America" (Jim Sheridan, 2003). Poignant, funny tale of an Irish couple who emigrate to New York after the death of their son. FREE. 764-0147. Natural Science auditorium (830 N. University), 7 p.m.

11 THURSDAY

★**"The Musical Athlete at Risk for Overuse Symptoms": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild.** Talk by U-M occupational therapist Linda Miner. 9 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 647-4301.

★**"The Firebird": Wild Swan Theater.** See 10 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★**Simon Shaheen: Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals).** Arabic, jazz, and classical music by this internationally acclaimed New York-based violinist and oud player (see 8 Monday). 12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital

acoustic music



Mike Marshall and Chris Thile

Extreme mandolins

Mike Marshall and Chris Thile, when they come to the Ark on Monday, December 15, will likely deliver the most virtuosically spectacular concert you'll hear this year. If this weren't music for the arcane combination of two mandolins, you'd be reading about it in the paper every week. You might think, hmmm, two mandolins—I can miss that. Big mistake.

Thile ("THEE-lee," with the "th" as in *thin*) is the mandolinist from the new acoustic band Nickel Creek, the quartet of photogenic and ferociously talented young Californians who, without a shred of permission from the marketing powers that be, landed in the *Billboard* pop top twenty recently. He's been making recordings since before his teens, and he's now twenty. He's got blazing speed in quiet spaces; he's so fast that the ear can't quite keep up. You're not sure you really heard what you just heard.

In Mike Marshall, a veteran of progressive bluegrass who played for years with David Grisman and has worked at one time or another with a host of musicians in the genre, Thile has found a partner who can channel his prodigious energies. Marshall turns Thile away from the acoustic alternative rock that Nickel Creek sometimes plays and toward the improvisatory spaces of the bluegrass far left field. On their album *Into the Cauldron*, which Marshall and Thile took their time putting to-

gether and honed to perfection, they offer complex duo structures with openings for individual improvisation. Thile bursts out unexpectedly all over, and the shifting point where improvisation meets quite ambitious composition will fascinate a listener.

Their music doesn't demolish genre boundaries. They do a Brazilian piece and Charlie Parker's "Scrapple from the Apple," but there are also several traditional tunes on *Into the Cauldron*. In general, Marshall and Thile are firmly within the tradition of bluegrass-jazz fusion begun by Grisman and elaborated by a group of marginally well-known but fabulously committed players. Compared with banjoist Bela Fleck, whose trio precedes Marshall and Thile in town by three days, they're less exotic and more classical—in more ways than one, for they play a luminous version of one of J. S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations*. Their music elaborately fills in possibilities Fleck has bypassed.

So go to hear Mike Marshall and Chris Thile to find out what the post-Bela Fleck generation is up to, if you like. That pair of concerts presents lovers of progressive bluegrass and new acoustic experiment—we're a rare but hardy breed!—with an extremely unusual double feature (or triple feature if you count Special Consensus on December 5). I'll be there to hear a great concert in its own right; reports from other towns describe a pair of master musicians pushing themselves to the limit, exchanging high-fives in enthusiasm, and finishing up in near exhaustion.

—James M. Manheim

lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936-ARTS.

★"12th Annual Light a Memory": St. Joseph Mercy Hospice. All invited to join Hospice staff to remember a departed loved one by relating personal stories and listening to readings and music. Votive candles distributed to take home. Followed by dessert reception. Proceeds benefit hospice programs. 7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Education Center auditorium, 5305 E. Huron River Dr. Optional donation. 327-3319.

★"Seasonal Beers": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen different spiced beers, old ales, meads, and other holiday favorites. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. 7-9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington.

Tickets \$25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213-1393.

★"Alternative Art Processes and Media": Washington Gallery. Talk by local artist Lynda Cole, whose works are currently on display (see Galleries). 7 p.m., Washington Gallery, 120 E. Liberty. Free. 761-2287.

★"Poetry Night in Ann Arbor": VOLUME Youth Poetry Project. Boisterous "explosion of words" in readings by local and youth poets, including 2-time Ann Arbor Grand Slam champion Jeff Kass, Dallas poet Jason Carney, members of the new poetry troupe Ann Arbor Wordworks, the mysterious "Smith," and others. 7-10 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$8 in advance (students \$4), \$10 at the door (students \$5). 223-7443.

★Simon Shaheen: University Musical Society. See

8 Monday listing. Tonight: Shaheen gives a lecture-demo of the oud. 7-9 p.m., Herb David Guitar Studio, 302 E. Liberty. Free. 764-2538.

★2nd Thursday Performance Series: U-M Museum of Art. Performances TBA by U-M music students. 7 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.

★Books about Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join a discussion of John Harthan's *The History of the Illustrated Book: The Western Tradition*. Refreshments. 7-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 111 E. Ann. Free. 669-0451.

★"Affirmative Action": Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County. Talk by former Libertarian Party of Michigan chair Tim O'Brien. 7:30 p.m., CUBS' AC, 1950 South Industrial. Free. 668-2607 (days).

★Annual Winter Sing: Pioneer High School. Kenneth Westerman leads all 9 of the school's vocal groups in an eclectic program highlighted by "Title of the Song," Da Vinci's Notebook's satirical skewering of boy bands. Also, Coldplay's plaintive "The Scientist," "You Can't Stop the Beat" from *Hairspray*, an arrangement of Schubert's "The Trout," and spirituals and American and Scottish folk songs. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994-2120.

Ryan Adams: Clear Channel Entertainment. Rough-hewn rock 'n' roll with strong pop and country influences by this popular singer-songwriter, a former member of the alt-country band Whiskeytown who has released 3 CDs in the past month, *Rock 'n' Roll* and *Love Is Hell Pt. 1 & Pt. 2*. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$21.75 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (234) 645-6666.

Michael Cooney: The Ark. Long one of the Ark's most popular attractions, this "one-man folk festival" leads a sing-along of pub songs, modern popular songs, and traditional songs from America and the British Isles. Cooney's shows also feature a variety of great jokes and stories. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★"Xmas Carol": BlackBag Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Nick Gaza: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 11-13. Ann Arbor debut of this veteran guest performer in TV sitcoms, a very funny and playful stand-up comic who bills himself as "The Laziest Working Man in Show Business," sometimes even performing in PJs. Opening act is Jesse Lundy, a Detroit comic. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. 8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$11 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

FILMS

Ann Arbor District Library. "Spirited Away" (Hayao Miyazaki, 2002). Dazzling Oscar-winning animated fantasy about a young girl who discovers a secret world of strange spirits and sorcery. When her parents are transformed, she must find the courage to free herself and return her family to the outside world. Highest grossing film in Japanese history. Popcorn. FREE. 327-4200. AADL Northeast branch (Plymouth Mall), 7 p.m. MTF. "Bus 174" (Jose Padilha, 2002). See 5 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

12 FRIDAY

★"The Firebird": Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Wednesday. 10 a.m. and 12:30 & 7:30 p.m.

★"Religion in the Lives of African Americans: Research on Health and Social Outcomes": U-M Center for Research on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health. Talk by U-M health behavior and health education professor Linda Chatters. Noon-1:30 p.m., M3026 School of Public Health II, 1420 Washington Heights. Free. 647-6665.

★"Holiday Gifts from the Kitchen": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. Cooking demo by Barbara Steer of the Pastry Cart. Taste samples. 1-4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. \$5. Pre-registration required. 998-9353.

★Kwanzaa Celebration: U-M Center for Afroamerican and African Studies. A chance to learn more about and prepare for Kwanzaa, a 6-day



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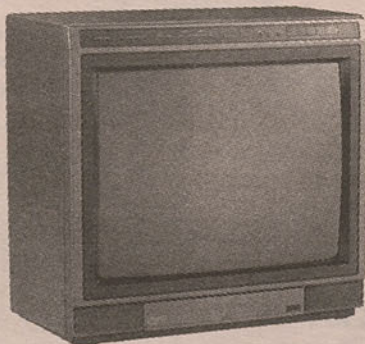
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12 FRIDAY EVENTS continued

(December 26-January 1) celebration of the harvest, family, and community whose Swahili name means "first fruits." Local vendors offer African-inspired jewelry, artifacts, art, and gifts for sale. Also, activities and performances TBA. 1-9 p.m., Haven Hall room TBA, 505 S. State St. Free. 764-5518.

★The Yiddish Group: Jewish Community Center. All invited for readings and discussion of Yiddish literature selections TBA. Also, singing of Yiddish songs. 1:30-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

Holiday Show and Sale: Yourist Pottery Collective. December 12 & 13. Show and sale of a variety of decorative and functional pottery made by local potters. Refreshments. 5:30-10 p.m. (Dec. 12) & 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 13), Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1160 Broadway. Free admission. 662-4914.

★"24-Hour World-Healing Peace Generator." All invited to stop by for 30 minutes or more for silent meditation on world peace, forgiveness, cooperation, and joy. 6 p.m. on Dec. 12 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 13, Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron at Thayer. Free. 971-8576.

★Christmas Party: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. A potluck supper (bring a dish to pass), Christmas carol sing-along, and "general holiday cheer." Bring a small gift for the traditional grab bag, and parents should bring a small gift for Santa to give their children. 6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). Free. 769-1052.

Psychic Fair: Psychic Visions Network. Area psychics offer readings using tarot, astrology, numerology, crystals, and other methods. Fees vary but are usually around \$30 for a 30-minute (or longer) session. 6 p.m.-midnight, Comfort Inn, 2455 Carpenter. \$5 admission. 320-7704.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 7 Sunday. Team USA Under-18 vs. Rochester Institute of Technology. Time TBA.

★Coffee Hour: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to chat with local neopagans. 7-9 p.m., Arborland Borders. Free. 998-1029.

"Friday Night Live": Ann Arbor Parks Department Youth Outreach Program. Supervised dance party for middle (7-10 p.m.) and high school (10 p.m.-1 a.m.) students. DJs play a variety of current R&B, rock, rap, and pop. 7 p.m.-1 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$5. 997-1615.

★"Among Wolves: The Story of Wolfsong Ranch Foundation": Studio Earth. Screening of local artist Jesse Richards's documentary about the Wolf-song Ranch Foundation in Rodeo, New Mexico, the country's largest wolf refuge. Founded by Art Bellis, a former rodeo cowboy and decorated veteran of Korea and Vietnam, it is home to some 200 wolves and wolf hybrids, along with assorted dogs, horses, and even a mountain lion. Followed by a reception and a Q&A with director Richards and Tracy Komarny, who accompanied Richards on her trip to Wolfsong. 7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College, 175 LS&A Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 995-2972.

"Nun-crackers": Saline Area Players. December 12, 13, & 18-21. A dinner theater production of Dan Goggin's wacky Christmas musical, from his *Nun-sense* series. When the Little Sisters of Hoboken plan to produce the *Nutcracker* ballet, their good intentions devolve into a mounting series of madcap mishaps. 7 p.m., Phat Daddy's (formerly Lucky Bucks), 131 E. Michigan, Saline. Tickets \$25 in advance only. 944-8848.

Student-Produced Play: Gabriel Richard High School. December 12-14. Anne Kolaczowski-Magee directs Gabriel Richard students in an original Christmas-themed play. Evening time TBA. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Ticket prices TBA. 662-0496.

★"Planning 2004": Older Lesbians Organizing. All lesbians invited to join a discussion. Also, a holiday sing tomorrow (details TBA). 7:30 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun. Free. 482-2996.

★"Divination Night": Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path. All invited to "grab your tarot cards, your pendulum, and your runes" and hie on down to this pagan community center to divine the future. 7:30-10:30 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center yard, 1910 Hill. Free. 677-8211.

"A Christmas Nocturne": Women's Chamber Chorus. David Peramle directs this independent 35-member local women's chorus in a concert of Christmas music. Piano accompanist is Leslie Austin. Also, performances by the chorus's sextet, Chamber Maids, and handbell choir, the Joyous Ringers. 7:30

p.m., West Side Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Donations accepted. 677-0678, 663-5907.

"A Russian Christmas": First Presbyterian Church. December 12 & 13. Susan Boggs directs the church's chancel choir, children's choir, soloists, and orchestra in a program of sacred and secular music from Russia, Estonia, and Ukraine. Includes Ukrainian carols, Russian folk songs, Russian Orthodox liturgical music, Rachmaninoff's Vespers, and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Overture on Russian Themes*. Also, the First Presbyterian Handbell Choir performs "The Great Gate of Kiev," "Hark! How the Bells," and "Trepak" from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. A fund-raiser for the choir's June concert and mission tour of Russia, Estonia, and Latvia. 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. \$10 (students & children, \$5) suggested donation. 662-4466.

"Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. December 12-14. Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers in a production of Tchaikovsky's beloved Christmas ballet, based on an E. T. A. Hoffmann story, about a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a wondrous fairyland on Christmas Eve. 7:30 p.m., Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. Tickets \$15 (\$8, seniors, students, & children; tonight only: one child free with each adult ticket; special group rate for Saturday matinee) available in advance at the Glass Slipper and the Dancer's Boutique, at 475-3070, or at the door. 475-3070.

"A Tale of Two Cities": Young Actors Guild. December 12-14. Sue Roe directs local young actors in Mark Fitzgibbon's dramatization of Dickens's sweeping, highly colored historical romance set in London and Paris around the time of the French Revolution. When a young English lady's father is released from the Bastille, she travels to Paris, setting in motion an intricate whirl of dramatic events that ends in tragedy. 7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, 911 North University. \$9 (11 & under, \$7). 913-9800.

★"A Doll House": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. December 12 & 13. RC drama teacher Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in Ibsen's classic drama about the breakdown of the marriage of Nora and Torvald Helmer and the dissolution of the "dollhouse" that 19th-century middle-class marriage had become. The play caused riots when it was performed in the 1870s, and could be safely produced only when a "happy" ending was added where Nora returns to her life as wife and mother. 7:30 p.m., RC Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647-4354.

★"Altitude: The Story of the First Cancer Survivor to Climb Mount Everest": Of Global Interest. Local adventure tour guide Heather O'Neal screens her inspirational documentary of intrepid Colorado climber Sean Swamer. 8 p.m., 120 Eighth St. Free. 369-3107.

★"American Views of Greece in the Year of the Olympics": U-M Classics Department Modern Greek Program/Hellenic Students Association. Talk by Thomas Miller, the American ambassador to Greece. 8 p.m., Michigan League Koessler Room. Free. 936-6099.

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). December 12 & 13. This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, Massachusetts, writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released 4 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Live in Michigan*. A big hit in earlier Green Wood appearances. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662-4536, 665-8558.

Fonnmhor: The Ark. This acclaimed Celtic-rock quintet from Battle Creek blends traditional Irish and Scottish melodies and musical structures with African-influenced rock drumming and percussion. "Fonnmhor isn't just another Celtic band or rock group with Celtic influences," says Irish American Heritage Center (Chicago) manager Conor O'Keeffe. "They are one of the most powerful and musically exciting groups, Celtic or otherwise, I've ever seen perform in concert." 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$12.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Bela Fleck and the Flecktones: The Ark. This Grammy-nominated all-star quartet led by the great New Grass Revival banjoist Bela Fleck plays a unique blend of bluegrass, jazz, funk, world beat, and avant-garde electronic music. With saxophonist Jeff Coffin, bassist Victor Wooten, and percussionist Royel (aka Futureman), who also plays percussion electronically with his fingers on an electric guitar

body he designed. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$25 & \$35 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

★**"White Void."** December 12 & 13. This multimedia show features 8 video-dance works by 4 U-M student choreographers. About half of the works consist of video projections of dancers, and half video projections with live dancers. The works explore themes of autumn, deception, confinement, sexuality, and the contrasts between Scottish landscape and Scottish architecture. Live accompaniment by local folk keyboardist Dawn Lo. 8 p.m., U-M Media Union Video Studio, 2281 Bonisteel. Free. 763-3266.

★**"Heart's Plunder":** Dance Gallery Studio. Local dance luminary Peter Sparling and dance company founding member Julianne O'Brien Pedersen give an informal showing of Sparling's latest work, an exploration of the storm-tossed life of St. Petersburg poet Anna Akhmatova. The work integrates her poetry with dance and recorded excerpts from Prokofiev piano works. In conjunction with the UMMA's *The Romanovs Collect* exhibit, which ended November 23. 8 p.m., Dance Gallery Studio, 815 Wildt St. Free. 747-8885.

Empatheater. Artistic director Sara Schreiber leads this local improv theater group in its 8th season. Empatheater invites audience members to anonymously write down their concerns and life situations, which become a springboard for the actors' improvisations. Theatergoers watch their stories come alive. This month's topic: **"Amazing Grace."** 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$12 & \$15 (students & seniors, \$10) in advance and at the door. 913-9733.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Truth about Teeth": Dreamland Theater. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Xmas Carol": BlackBag Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Nick Gaza: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. **"My Life Without Me"** (Isabel Coixet, 2003). December 12-16. Indie tearjerker about a working-class mom diagnosed with terminal cancer who makes an unusual list of things to do before she dies and then sets out to get them done. Amanda Plummer, Deborah Harry. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

13 SATURDAY

★**Restoration Work Day:** U-M Nichols Arboretum. All invited to help Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. 9 a.m.-noon, meeting location TBA. Free. 998-9540.

Huron Gun Collectors. December 13 & 14. Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Food concessions. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Admission \$4. (810) 227-1637.

16th Annual Bake Sale: St. Vladimir's Church. Big show and sale of meat and cheese twist pastries, pierogies, spinach pie, holiday breads, baklava, and other treats. Also, sale of a selection of Palestinian embroideries and European crafts and religious items. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 9900 Jackson (2 miles west of Baker). Dexter. Free admission. 769-2686.

"Cookie Walk X": First United Methodist Church. Amble through a bazaar of hundreds of toothsome homemade cookies, and select your own or prepackaged assortments. "You never know what you're gonna get," notes an organizer. Proceeds benefit mission work. 9 a.m.-noon, First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State at Huron. Free admission. 668-6829.

Handcraft Sale: Sales Exchange Refugee Rehabilitation Volunteers. December 13 & 14. A wide variety of handcrafted items by Third World artisans. SERRV is an ecumenical nonprofit marketing organization designed to provide a major alternative sales outlet for artisans in economically developing areas of the world. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church (back entrance), 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. Wheelchair-accessible. 663-0362.

★**Dexter's Victorian Christmas:** Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce. See 6 Saturday. Followed today at 5:30 p.m. by a downtown holiday light parade in which all floats are decked out in lights. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

★**Holiday Open House:** Rentschler Farm Historic Museum. All invited to sip spiced cider, munch a cookie, and examine this century-old sheep farm, now a farm museum, currently festooned in 1930s-style holiday decorations. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Rentschler Farm, 7640 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Free. 769-2219.

★**American Girl Club:** Barnes & Noble. All girls ages 7-12 invited to delve into the world of the American Girl collection of historical dolls. This month's discussion book, Alev Lytle Cloutier's *Leyla*, is from the related Girls of Many Lands Series. Set in Istanbul in 1720, it is about a girl torn from her home in the Caucasus and sold into the harem of the ruling Ottoman sultan. Also, raffle of a large Kaya doll and dollstand. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 973-1618.

★**Madbook Club:** Madstone Theaters. All invited to discuss *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, Mitch Albom's novel about the unexpected connections of our lives, told through the afterlife experiences of an elderly war veteran working at a seaside amusement park who is killed trying to save a little girl from a falling cart. 11 a.m., Madstone Theaters lounge, Briarwood mall. Free. 994-5221.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Bowling Green. 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$21. 764-0247.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 7 Sunday. Today: Team USA Under-18 vs. Rochester Institute of Technology. Time TBA.

★**"Coyotes, Foxes, and Wolves":** Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck presents a slide-illustrated talk on the differences between these animals and identifies which of them can be found in Hudson Mills. 2 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. (Park entry fee: \$3 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426-8211.

★**Classical Bells:** Ann Arbor District Library. This acclaimed 12-member, 74-bell Detroit-area handbell ensemble performs a program of sacred, secular, and seasonal pieces, including popular, jazz, and hymn tunes. The performance includes some choreography and discussion of the music and its history. 2-3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

"Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 12 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"The Firebird": Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**Orchestra Concerts:** Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. See 7 Sunday. Today: Kevin Miller leads the **Youth Symphony Orchestra** in works by Bach, Mozart, and Bartok, plus Atwell's "Rhythm Sticks." At 3:45 p.m., Tami Lee conducts the **Debut String Orchestra** in Frank Roger's *The Tales of Three Not So Blind Mice*, a Chinese sea chantey, and the prelude from Merle Isaac's *Apollo Suite*. Also, Abigail Alwin leads the **Junior String Orchestra** in Michael Hopkins's *The Happy Zookeeper*, Richard Meyer's *Elegy and Dance*, and a tune about frogs. At 4:30 p.m., Leslie Capozzoli leads the **Sterling String Orchestra** in Saint-Saens's *Danse Macabre*, James Corigliano's *Reverie for String Orchestra*, and Elliot Del Borgo's *Sonata Vivant*. 3:45 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. Donations accepted. 995-4625.

★**"Jazz Holiday Showcase":** Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. See 7 Sunday. Today: Jack Wagner, John Nam, and Paul Finkbeiner lead small jazz combos, and Finkbeiner leads the Big Band. 4 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Free. Donations accepted. 995-4625.

"Sing Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing led by local singer-actor Larry Henkel as Santa. With accompaniment by pianist Lori Zupan, flutist Lori Newman, award-winning fiddler Jeremy Kittel, and guitarist John Behling. Refreshments follow the concert. 4-5 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10 (children 12 & under, \$5; families, \$25; patrons, \$50) in advance at the AASO office, 527 E. Liberty, and at the door. 994-4801.

★**Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad:** U-M Men's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team, which finished 4th in the NCAA championships last year, prepares for the 2003-2004 season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

30th Anniversary Fall Concert: U-M Gospel Chorale. Gospel music by this coed a cappella ensemble, plus dance by the Images of Praise dance

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13 SATURDAY EVENTS continued

team and the Gospel Chorale step team. Also, a performance by the Prophetic Interpreters mime team. 7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Cost TBA. 763-1107.

Rebel Grrls Music Project: The Neutral Zone. CD release party for the youth band Detergent, and performances by other local adult and youth bands. 7-11 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main. \$5. 214-9995.

"A Woman's World": Kerrytown Concert House. A trio of U-M musical theater grads—Courtney Balan, Celia Keenan-Bolger, and Maddy Wyatt—performs cabaret and musical theater. Piano accompanist is Eric Lofstrom. 7 & 9 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10 (students, \$8). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

"Nuncrackers": Saline Area Players. See 12 Friday. 7 p.m.

"17th Annual Winter Concert": Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. Richard Ingram and Shayla Powell conduct 2 ensembles of talented local youth singers ages 9-16 in a program of holiday favorites. 7:30 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Tickets \$7 (students & seniors \$4), at the door only. 996-4404.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of 30 boys in its 17th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day," and includes David Willcocks's arrangements of "Away in a manger" (with boy soprano) and of the traditional "Sussex Carol," John Joubert's "Torches" and his boisterous "All and some," and the energetic Renaissance carol "Gaudete!" (with handbell choir). Also, Willcocks's arrangement of "Good King Wenceslas" for boy soprano and bass and the beautiful Welsh carol "Suo Gan" sung by a solo boy. The boy singers are supplemented by several professional men singers, who provide the lower choral parts, and the choir is accompanied on St. Andrew's 33-rank Reuter organ by National Shrine of the Little Flower (Royal Oak) organist and choirmaster Charles Kennedy. The Boychoir's Preparatory Choir performs John Rutter's "Star Carol" and "Welcome Yule." Also, sale of the Boychoir Christmas CD. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so get your tickets in advance. 3 & 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10; youths 17 & under, \$5; families, \$40) in advance and at the door. 663-5377.

Student-Produced Play: Gabriel Richard High School. See 12 Friday. Afternoon and evening times TBA.

"A Russian Christmas": First Presbyterian Church. See 12 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"A Tale of Two Cities": Young Actors Guild. See 12 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"A Doll House": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. See 12 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Pride of Prague Victorian Ball": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Victorian-era Eastern Europe is this year's theme for this elegant evening of vintage ballroom and traditional dancing to live music by the Grand Traditions Ensemble. Singles and couples of all abilities invited to don period dress (see vintagedance.com/wear.htm) and dance the Bohemian National Polka, the polonaise, the saros, and the beseda. Also, pre-ball workshops on set dances and etiquette (noon-1:45 p.m.) and the dances (1:45-3 p.m.). Refreshments. 7:45-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94), Saline. \$25 includes workshops. Workshops only: \$5 each. Preregistration required. 429-0014.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. With caller Don Theyken and the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Beginners welcome. 8-11 p.m., Webster Community Hall, across from Webster Church on Webster Church Rd. (1 mile south of North Territorial), Dexter. \$7. 996-8359.

"Women Hanging Out (WHO)": Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project. All lesbians and friends invited for a potluck (bring a dish to pass), games, recorded music, and socializing. 8-11 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 994-9867.

Josh White Jr.: The Ark. Known for his powerful, intense singing and his virtuosity on 6-string and 12-string guitars, White sings in a more modern style than his famous folksinger father. His blues, gospel, and folk repertoire includes many of his father's best-known songs as well as several upbeat, inspirational originals. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, &

all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). See 12 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Truth about Teeth": Dreamland Theater. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Xmas Carol": BlackBag Productions. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Nick Gaza: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 11 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "My Life Without Me" (Isabel Coixet, 2003). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

14 SUNDAY

"Art in the Barn" Holiday Sale. Show and sale of metal sculpture, jewelry, clothing, pottery, dolls, paintings, and more, made by local artists. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 410 W. Huron (just west of the railroad tracks). Free admission. 663-3029.

***Hanukkah Party: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** Games, craft activities, and latkes & doughnuts. Concludes with the traditional lighting of the menorah. All invited. 10 a.m.-noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.

"Winter Wreaths": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). A city naturalist shows how to make and decorate a grapevine wreath from dormant vines and flowers. Preceded by a hike to gather materials. 1-3 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. \$6 (family, \$25). 997-1553.

"Frosty on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks Department. All invited to join Frosty the Snowman in skating to recorded music programmed by a DJ. Free candy canes. 1-2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$4.25 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$3.50). Skate rentals available (\$2). 761-7240.

39th Annual Community "Messiah" Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by former longtime Pioneer High choral director Bob Pratt. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 12:30 p.m. Cider provided; bring goodies to share. 1 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Small donation requested to help defray expenses. For more information, call Mary Steffek Blaske at 677-7067.

***Friends of Four-Hand Piano.** Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. 2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663-3942, 769-2105.

***Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. 2-5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 747-9644, 761-1451.

***"Four Seasons in Japanese Art": U-M Museum of Art.** Docent-guided tour of this exhibit. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763-UMMA.


***Women in Black.** Members of this peace group give short talks about their experiences at the recent 11th international Women in Black meeting. All invited. 2 p.m., 310 S. Ashley. Free. 761-7967.

2nd Friday Advanced English Frolic: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. English country dancing for experienced dancers. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. Live music by A Perfect Match. 2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$8 (AACT-MAD members, \$7). (313) 937-1552.

Student-Produced Play: Gabriel Richard High School. See 12 Friday. Afternoon time TBA.

"A Tale of Two Cities": Young Actors Guild. See 12 Friday. 2 p.m.

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Consider "Calling All Angels," her best-known song, which has appeared on two sound tracks as well as on her sixth album, *When I Was a Boy* (1993). Her voice soars up, swirls down, and drops to a whisper with unpredictable timing that makes you hang on each line. She travels through sketched scenes from loneliness to devotion to contemplation of mortality, until the

cathartic chorus: "Walk me through this world / Don't leave me alone."

Ten years ago, the Toronto-born Siberry was edging close to commercial success, and the Windsor stations that were making local radio exciting played songs from *When I Was a Boy*. But her muse couldn't fit inside four-minute verse-chorus-verse patterns for long. (After all, her first hit in Canada, 1984's "Mimi on the Beach," was an eight-minute character sketch alternating sung lyrics and monologue.) So she went on to explore jazz, recorded songs she'd written as a teenager, and put out three live albums, a covers album, and a rarities collection.

It all culminated in last year's *Love Is Everything: The Jane Siberry Anthology*, which hits the clear highlights of her sprawling discography. Her voice—sometimes soaring, sometimes a tad husky, sometimes quirky, but always clear and unique—is almost all that unites the collection. But there's also a fragile beauty, and a sense of a spiritual depth, whether she's heartbroken, singing about nature and animals, or observing people and divining their secrets. She disregards song-writing convention as she follows one insight to the next, as if she's listening to other music, from above.

I won't try to locate her in a genre, like the poor librarian who'd crossed out "popular" and written in "folk Celtic" on the copy I borrowed of *Hush* (2000), a covers album that ranges across American and Celtic gospel and folk songbooks. The point is, when you find out that her new album is an interpretation of centuries-old Christmas-inspired hymns, you don't ask what's she doing jumping genres to sing Handel, Bach, and Mendelssohn, and you don't get hung up trying to understand the title, *Shushan the Palace* (*Hymns of Earth*). You just thrill to the way she explores the classical songs, including less-celebrated parts of Handel's *Messiah*, such as "I know that my redeemer liveth," or when she takes Charles Jennens's biblical eighteenth-century lyrics, reaches for the top of her range with the climactic line "the first fruits of them that sleep," and brings rebirth itself to life again.

Jane Siberry performs at the Ark on Tuesday, December 16, singing the *Shushan* songs and a sampling of her own best lyrics—including, her promotional material promises, "Calling All Angels."
—Erick Trickey

cluding the Michigan premiere of his *Pentonsilic Suite*, 4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$10, \$15, & \$25 (students, \$5). Reservations suggested. 769-2999.

★**Christmas Pageant: West Side United Methodist Church.** West Side Methodist kids reenact the Nativity story in a production that features kids in PJs listening to "Grandma" and "Gramps" relate the tale, which is brought to life by child actors on another part of the stage. 4 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. 7th St. Free. 663-4164.

★**Queer Fiction Book Club.** All invited to discuss *How Long Has This Been Going On?*, New Yorker contributor Ethan Mordden's sweeping epic about the gay experience in America from 1940s Hollywood to the advent of AIDS. 4:30-6 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 663-0036.

★**"Jewish Theology: A Secular Humanist View": Temple Beth Emeth.** Talk by Birmingham Temple rabbi Adam Chalom. Childcare available (preregistration required). 5:30-7 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Free. 665-4744.

★**"Did You Know?" Living Nativity Pageant: First Baptist Church.** December 14, 15, & 16. Church members reenact the Nativity with live animals and a carol sing-along. The audience is invited to pet the animals. Refreshments in the social hall. 6:30, 7, 7:30, & 8 p.m., First Baptist Church, 1110 W. Cross (between Wallace and Oakwood.) Free. 482-7380.

★**"An Advent Procession": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** The St. Andrew's Chancel Choir and the St. Dunstan's English Handbell Choir perform Peter Hallock's contemporary setting of the Advent chants known as the "O" Antiphons. Also, Advent carols, and works by Hallock, Howells, Ramsey, and Rutter. 7 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

30th Annual Holiday Ragtime Bash: First Unitarian Church. "Smiling sellout crowds," according to organizers, turn out every year for this feast of piano ragtime and traditional jazz, with boogie-woogie and blues thrown in for good measure. Tonight's top-notch performers include veteran Detroit blues pianist Bob Seeley, renowned for his electrifying, passionate renditions of boogie classics. Also, the noted Detroit-area ragtime band Taslimah Bey and the Silver Dollar Ragtime Band, Detroit pianist and acclaimed ragtime historian Mike Montgomery, recent U-M grad Kent "Cannonball" Eshelman, and others. 7:30 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. at Ellsworth. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$12) in advance at Nicola's Books and at the door. 665-6158.

"The Truth about Teeth": Dreamland Theater. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Ann Arbor District Library. "Seven Chances" (Buster Keaton, 1925). See Events listing above. AADL, 3 p.m. Michigan Theater Foundation. "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). Delightful, affectionate memoir of a 1940s childhood and the quest for a BB gun. Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin. FREE. 668-8397. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "My Life Without Me" (Isabel Coixet, 2003). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

15 MONDAY

★**Embroiderers' Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. 6:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors (\$30 annual dues). 426-3903.

★**Rabbi's Book Club: Temple Beth Emeth.** All invited to join a discussion of *Bliss*, Ronit Matalon's novel about an Israeli photographer whose defense of a wounded Palestinian child leads to disaster. Copies of the book available in advance at TBE. 7:30-9 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth room TBA, 2309 Packard. Free. 665-4744.

Mike Marshall & Chris Thile: The Ark. See review, p. 93. All-star duo of the young Nickel Creek mandolinist Thile and the veteran David Grisman Quartet and Psychograss mandolinist Marshall. Their performing style blends jazz and bluegrass sensibilities, and their material ranges from Bach to Charlie Parker to Brazilian *choro* and transposed traditional English fiddle tunes. "Not only do they have the technique to skitter as lightning through extremely difficult material, but they also improvise with, against, and for each other with uncanny telepathy," says *The Tennessean* in its review of their debut CD, *Into the Cauldron*. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$20 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theater of Michigan. See 12 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Firebird": Wild Swan Theater. See 10 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Xmas Carol": BlackBag Productions. See 4 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★**"Human Chain for Peace": Megiddo Peace Project.** Follow-up reports on Al Haber's recent peace project to cross Ann Arbor with a human chain. Video screening and pictures of the chain. 2 p.m., 310 S. Ashley. Free. 761-7967.

Israeli Dancing: U-M Hillel. Tom Starks offers an hour of beginning instruction, followed by open dancing. 2:30 p.m., 1429 Hill. \$4. 769-0500.

★**"Seven Chances": Ann Arbor District Library.** The eclectic local ensemble Blue Dahlia performs its original score for a screening of Buster Keaton's 1925 classic silent comedy about a man who stands to inherit a fortune if he can get married by 7 p.m. When he bungles a proposal to his girlfriend, his business partner puts an ad in the paper, and in the ensuing mayhem he ends up being pursued by thousands of women. The Blue Dahlia score is an inventive amalgam of samba, tango, spoken-word, and

rock. 3-4:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

★**Christmas Concert: Dexter Community Band.** Bill Gourley directs this 90-member volunteer ensemble in a program of seasonal music. Also, a guest performance by the Ann Arbor Concert Band and a sing-along of Christmas carols. 3 p.m., Dexter High School Center for the Performing Arts, 2200 N. Parker Rd. at Shield, Dexter. Free. 429-5301.

★**Stilyagi Air Corps Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss a science fiction book TBA. 4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. (313) 337-9908.

★**"Michigan Children of SCORE": Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** See 7 Sunday. Today: Judith Thompson-Barthwell, Abigail Alwin, and Wendy Bloom lead the Michigan Children of SCORE (String, Choral, Orff, and Recorder Ensemble) in Chinese Mother Goose rhymes set to music by Bainbridge Crist, and holiday music from around the world. 4 p.m., Greenwood Methodist Church, Green at Xavier Way. Free. Donations accepted. 995-4625.

II-V-I Orchestra: Kerrytown Concert House. This veteran local big band led by saxophonist David Swain plays Billy Strayhorn and Duke Ellington's swing arrangement of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, perhaps the finest example of blending classical and jazz idioms. Also, other Strayhorn works, in-

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FILMS

MTF. "My Life Without Me" (Isabel Coixet, 2003). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

16 TUESDAY

Women's Circle: Essence Point. All women invited to discuss spirituality, relationships, empowerment, metaphysics, and healing. Short meditation session. Also, bring divination tools, if you like. 7 p.m., *Genesis Foundation (Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church)*, 2309 Packard. \$2. 741-0478.

★Mitch Albom: Barnes & Noble. This *Detroit Free Press* sports columnist and WJR radio personality signs copies of his new novel, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★Community Education Series: Dawn Farm. December 16 & 30. Talks on addiction issues by local experts. Today: Dawn Farm Detox Facility team leader Ed Conlin discusses "The Physiology of Chemical Dependency." Also this month: Dawn Farm team leader Kelly Mullins discusses "Our Devilish Alcoholic Personality" (December 30). 7:30-9 p.m., EC-1 Education Center, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 5305 Elliott Dr. Free. 485-8725.

★Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Tracy Chevalier's engrossing historical novel, inspired by the Vermeer painting, about a servant girl in Vermeer's prosperous 17th-century household. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★Band Concert: Huron Players. Stephen Roberts leads the Varsity, Symphony, and Concert bands in programs TBA. 7:30 p.m., Huron High School Meyer Auditorium, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994-2040.

★Holiday Concert: Ypsilanti Community Band. This 50-member adult band is joined by the Ypsilanti Community Choir to celebrate its 75th anniversary with a program of Christmas music from the band's past. 7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 697-3471.

"The Dog Slam": Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. This midmonth affair for those for whom the long-standing 1st Tuesday (see 2 Tuesday listing) is not enough features open mike sessions and a variety of gimmicky slams. "We will leave no poem unread." 8-11 p.m., Heidelberg Rathskeller, 215 N. Main. \$4. For information, call Larry Francis at 426-3451.

Jane Siberry: The Ark. See review, p. 97. Canadian art-rock singer-songwriter whose richly textured, adventurously multilayered, highly conceptual original songs have provoked comparisons to Joni Mitchell and Laurie Anderson. Tonight she showcases material from her brand-new CD, *Shushan the Palace (Hymns of Earth)*, a collection of characteristically free-spirited interpretations of classical Christmas vocal music, including works by Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, and Holst, and the traditional "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" and "Lo, How a Rose Blooming." 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$17.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 2 Tuesday. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

FILMS

MTF. "My Life Without Me" (Isabel Coixet, 2003). See 12 Friday. Mich., times TBA. *The Underworld*. "Anime Night." See 2 Tuesday. *The Underworld*, 9-11 p.m.

17 WEDNESDAY

★"Serving the Prince of Peace": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice. Talk by ICPJ director Chuck Warpehoski. 9:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh. Free. 663-1870.

★Healthy Kids Reading and Activity Hour: U-M M-Fit. Parents and preschoolers invited to hear a story on a health topic and do a simple related craft. This month's topic: "Hand Washing." 1:30-2:30 p.m., East Ann Arbor Health Center, 4260 Plymouth Rd. Free. 647-5645.

★Drum Circle. A local drummer TBA leads this exuberant intergenerational drum circle. Bring a drum or borrow one of hers. No experience necessary. 7 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-7818.

★Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry. All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests.

The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. Aaron offers a talk and answers personal and universal questions. Also, socializing. 7:30 p.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477-5848.

★Poetry Group: Barnes & Noble. All poets invited to bring samples of their work for the group to critique. Hosted by local poet Lawrence Thomas. 7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★Boogie Woogie Babies: Ann Arbor District Library. The trio of Francesca Amari, Mary Rademacher, and Barbara Wisse celebrates WW II patriotism with its 2-act theatrical revue featuring swing-style vocal harmonies, dance, skits, and 40s trivia. Piano accompanist is Mark Kahny. 7:30-9:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

"Weird Wednesday": Dreamland Theater. Monthly open stage for off-the-wall performance artists, screenings of short videos and films, monologues, "self-styled comics, musicians, and other avant bards." Performers can sign up shortly before the show. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Donation. 657-2337.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm Night": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 10 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). December 17-31. This adaptation of the final and darkest chapter of Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy is about the deposed king Aragorn's quest to recapture his crown and the dangerous journey to Mordor to destroy the powerful Ring, which is corrupting its hobbit caretaker Frodo. Highlights include encounters with the spiderlike creature Shelob and the evil Dark Lord Sauron. Ian Holm, Cate Blanchett. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"The Gatekeeper"** (John Carlos Frey, 2002). December 17 & 18. Intense thriller about a self-loathing Mexican American border guard who's secretly a member of a far-right anti-Mexican vigilante squad. Directing debut film of Tijuana-born filmmaker Frey. Michelle Agnew, Anne Betancourt, J. Patrick McCormack. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

18 THURSDAY

★"The Art of Paper Cutting": International Neighbors. Popular local paper-cutting artist Thomas Clark shows some of his elaborate cut-paper snowflakes and teaches how to make them. All area women invited. International Neighbors is a 44-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. 9:30-11 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church Piper Hall, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 769-4943.

★3rd Thursday Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to join this informal club to discuss *The Best of Simple*, Langston Hughes's witty novel about an African American man on the economic fringe who survives by his wits. 7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-4110.

★Jefferson Street Chorale: Ann Arbor District Library. This local professional vocal ensemble, directed by the award-winning composer-arranger Gerald Custer, presents *I Hear America Singing*, a celebration of American music that ranges from the country's musical roots in English and Irish folk songs to spirituals, jazz vocal music, and contemporary pop standards. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4560.

"Nuncrackers": Saline Area Players. See 12 Friday. 7 p.m.

★"Great Nature Trips from Around the World": Huron Valley Sierra Club/Washtenaw Audubon Society. All invited to bring a few slides from favorite trips to show and discuss. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 480-7751.

★"Land Use Legislation": Libertarian Party of Washtenaw County. Talk by former Republican city councilwoman Jane Lumm, an active opponent of the greenbelt millage voters approved last month. 7:30 p.m., CUBS' AC, 1950 South Industrial. Free. 668-2607 (days).

★Fireside Chat: Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path. All invited to enjoy a fire and chat with pagans and the pagan-curious about "our experiences in Pagandom" and related matters. Re-

plays

The Good Doctor
Chekhov on Prozac

There may be some people around who wouldn't like *The Good Doctor* at the Purple Rose, but I don't know who they would be. If you find Chekhov depressing, this is Chekhov on Prozac. If you like Chekhov, you'll enjoy seeing his earlier, more primitive roots.

Nominally by Neil Simon, *The Good Doctor* is a dramatization of several of Anton Chekhov's most beloved short stories, written when Chekhov was a medical student in Moscow in the 1880s. Simon's contribution is restrained to the point of being almost undetectable, although copyright laws allow him to take full credit on the playbill. (Chekhov himself, surprisingly, isn't even mentioned anywhere in the program, although no one is really trying to hide his part in it. It's in the press releases.) Simon transposed the stories to the stage with a minimum of fuss, adding only a narrator—a "writer," presumably Chekhov—who introduces and comments on some of the sketches, and a music-hall-type piano player who performs the same function musically.

I could find little explanation of why Simon was moved to write *The Good Doctor*, which apparently wasn't particularly successful in its 1973 debut. With *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, and several other stage successes behind him, he was well into his career as an original playwright, and that's what he continued to be. Chekhov and Simon seem on the face of it a bit of an odd couple. Some years after writing these jolly stories, Chekhov would transform the nature of modern playwrighting from neatly wrapped tragic or comic packages into unresolved shades-of-gray landscapes of character exploration. Simon to some extent came along a half century later and steered American theater back into more accessible territory.

But however and whenever it came to be written, it's an enjoyable way to spend a few hours. The nine skits are mostly broad



comedy, but underlying each of them is at least a twang of the other Chekhov, the one who mixes the funny and the pathetic and won't tell you which is which. Staged simply, in the Chekhovian era (hard to see how it could have been placed in a more modern setting, with all its mistresses and governesses), the characters are universal, even if their predicaments are as quaint as their corsets and spats. The cast is composed of the usual Purple Rose suspects, with the addition of a new intern, Molly Thomas, who completely holds her own with the otherwise all-Equity cast.

The Good Doctor continues its run at Purple Rose through Saturday, December 20. —Sonia Kovacs

freshments. Bring nonalcoholic beverages and firewood if you like. 7:30 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center, 1910 Hill. Free. 677-8211.

★Orchestra Concert: Pioneer High School. Marijean Quigley-Young leads the orchestra in a program TBA. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Free. 994-2120.

★"The Vacation of a Lifetime": Of Global Interest. Entertaining slide- and video-illustrated talk about traveling in Nepal and trekking to Mount Everest by Heather O'Neal, who regularly travels to the Himalayas for her adventure tour business Of Global Interest. 8 p.m., 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free. 369-3107.

Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band: The Ark. Traditional Christmas music transformed into sultry, high-energy calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based percussion ensemble founded shortly after WW II by Hugh Borde and currently composed of Borde and several members of his family. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$10 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Kevin McPeck: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 18-20. Manic, wisecracking topical and observational humor by this 320-pound New York City-based monologist who likes to spar with his audience and regale it with visions of himself naked. Opening act is Tim Costello, a Detroit comic. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$5 (Thurs.) & \$8

(Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "The Gatekeeper" (John Carlos Frey, 2002). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA.

19 FRIDAY

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 7 Sunday. Team USA Under-18 vs. Cleveland of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

"Nuncrackers": Saline Area Players. See 12 Friday. 7 p.m.

★Christmas Festival: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America. The program begins with a performance of the late Katherine Katz's Nativity drama *The Ann Arbor Christmas Play*. Followed at 9:15 p.m. by lighting of the Christmas tree, and socializing. Refreshments. Children must be accompanied by an adult; not suitable for children under 6. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 662-6398, 971-6217.

"The Truth about Teeth": Dreamland Theater. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

19th Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. December 19-21. Carol Radovic directs



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19 FRIDAY EVENTS continued

this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E. T. A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers from children to adults appear in the production. With live musical accompaniment by the Michigan Sinfonietta, conducted by Leo Najjar. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$20 (seniors & students \$17; children 12 & under, \$12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Kevin McPeck: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 18 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Louisiana Dance Party. Dancing to Cajun and zydeco music by Maison Bleue. Preceded by free lesson (7:30 p.m.). 8:30-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$8 (teens, \$3; kids 12 & under, free). 213-5209.

"Holly Daze Dance": Parents Without Partners. All adults invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s-90s music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$7 (PWP members, \$5). 973-1933.

FILMS

Madstone Theaters. "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). December 19-28. Jean Shepherd narrates this adaptation of his memoir about a 1940 boyhood Christmas when all he wanted for Christmas was a BB gun. Also, on December 20 & 21, the 1st matinee is followed by a "Family Day" for ticket-holders, with kids activities, treats, and prizes, including a Christmas mural to be painted in the Madstone lobby at noon on December 20 by Michael Monroe, the illustrator of *A Wish to Be a Christmas Tree* and other children's books. \$8 (seniors & students, \$6; matinees, \$5.50). 994-5540. Madstone (Briarwood mall), times TBA. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Cooler"** (Wayne Kramer, 2003). December 19-25. In a seedy casino, a man hired to dampen the luck of the gamblers and prevent big wins falls for a waitress, to the intense displeasure of the menacing big boss. Alec Baldwin, Maria Bello. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668-8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"** (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA.

20 SATURDAY

57th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has conducted a Christmas bird count every year since 1900. (The first Washtenaw count was held in 1947.) Each count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle, divided into 8 regions that must be counted in a single day. Everyone recognizes that this makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to participate. You can volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. In addition to the daylight census of local birds, some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. For information and instruction on the Washtenaw area count, call the organizers as soon as possible. There is a small (\$5) fee to defray costs of publishing the results in *American Bird*. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at a WAS member's home this evening. 6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Mike Kielb at 995-4357 or Nancy French at 994-8418. To sign up as a feeder watcher, call Kurt Hagemeyer at 663-9746 or 665-7427.

Holiday All-Media Student Art Sale: EMU Ford Gallery. December 20-23. Vast show and sale of EMU art students' drawings, paintings, prints, ceramics, photos, jewelry, sculpture, and textiles. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Dec. 20, 22, & 23) & noon-5 p.m. (Dec. 21); Ford Gallery, 114 Ford Hall (next to McKenny Union across from the water tower), EMU, Ypsilanti. Free admission. 487-1268.

"Great Balls of Fire"/"Season of Light": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. December 20-23 & 27-30. **Great Balls of Fire** (11:30 a.m. December 20 & 27 only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. all 8 days) is an audiovisual exploration of the winter sky, which features the brightest stars of the year, all of them found in well-known constellations, including Rigel, Sirius, Capella, Polaris, Betelgeuse, and Aldebaran. **Season of Light** (12:30 p.m. December 20 & 27 only and 2:30 p.m. all 8 days) is an audiovisual show about various ancient and modern solstice celebrations, including Christmas and Hanukkah. 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Muse-

um, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$3.50. 764-0478.

"Skating with Santa": Ann Arbor Ice Cube. All invited to skate with Santa while listening to recorded Christmas songs. Free candy canes. Concessions. 1:15-2:35 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. \$4 (kids 12 & under, \$3; skate rental, \$3). 213-1600.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. CMU. 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$21. 764-0247.

★Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to celebrate the rebirth of the primal mother Danu and sun god Bel with singing, offerings, and honoring of ancestors and nature spirits. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass). Preceded by a fire watch beginning Friday. 2-5 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center, 1910 Hill. Free. 998-1029.

Mr. Laurence and the Dreamland Puppets: Dreamland Theater. Local singer-songwriter Mr. Laurence performs a selection of classic holiday songs. Lyric sheets provided for those who'd like to sing along. Opening act is the Dreamland Puppet Troupe with scenes from *The Snow Queen in Seven Stories*, its new marionette show based on Hans Christian Andersen's tales. 3-4 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$3 (kids 12 & under, \$2). 657-2337.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 7 Sunday. **Team USA Under-18 vs. Cleveland** of the North American Hockey League. 7 p.m.

4th Annual Skafest: The Neutral Zone. Performances by local youth ska bands, plus a guest appearance by a Florida youth ska band. 7-11 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 637 S. Main. \$5. 214-9995.

"Nuncrackers": Saline Area Players. See 12 Friday. 7 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Contra dancing with caller Peter Baker and live music TBA. All dances taught; first-timers welcome. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Preceded by a free open jam for string and other musicians (3-6 p.m.). 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$8. 665-8863 (dance), 769-4220 (jam).

Finvarra's Wren: The Ark. Traditional Irish, Scottish, English, and Celtic-American dances and carols by this local ensemble. Regular members Jim Perkins, Cheryl Burns, Terence McKinney, and Marty Somberg are usually joined by various guest musicians. Also, Irish step dancing. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at *Borders on Liberty*, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

Tom Saunders and the Midwest Jazz All-Stars: The Firefly Club. Veteran Detroit cornettist and vocalist Saunders leads an ensemble of jazz musicians from around the country in a tribute to the music of the late Dixieland trumpeter Wild Bill Davison. The group includes Chicago trombonist Russ Phillips, Toronto saxophonist Jim Galloway, Milwaukee clarinetist Chuck Hedges, Orlando drummer Eddie Metz Jr., and local bassist Paul Keller. A live recording session. The ensemble also performs during brunch at the Firefly tomorrow (see listing). 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$15 at the door only. 665-9090.

"The Truth about Teeth": Dreamland Theater. See 5 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Good Doctor": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 3 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m. Closing night.

19th Annual "Nutcracker" Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 19 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Kevin McPeck: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 18 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Ann Arbor Ballroom Dance Club. All invited to join club members for ballroom dancing to recorded music. Note new location. 9-11 p.m., Michigan Ballroom, Country Creek Plaza, 7025 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. \$10. 662-5058.

FILMS

Madstone. "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). See 19 Friday. Madstone, times TBA. **MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"** (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. **"The Cooler"** (Wayne Kramer, 2003). See 19 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path "Full Moon Movie Night."** Film TBA. Popcorn. \$3. 677-8211. Seven Generations Community Center yard, 1910 Hill. 8 p.m.

21 SUNDAY

Tom Saunders and the Midwest Jazz All-Stars:

The Firefly Club. See 20 Saturday, 11 a.m., *Firefly Club*, 207 S. Ashley. \$20 (includes brunch) at the door only. 665-9090.

***Shutta Crum:** Ann Arbor District Library. "Booked for Lunch." This Kentucky-born local storyteller, an AADL children's librarian, reads and discusses her children's fiction, including the recent *Spitting Image*, her debut young-adult novel about a single mom's scrappy daughter growing up in the 60s in a small Kentucky town visited by media big shots bent on documenting the "rural poor" who end up exposing everyone's humiliating secrets. Bring a bag lunch; coffee and tea provided. Taped for repeat broadcasts on cable channel 17. 1-2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8328.

"Nuncrackers": Saline Area Players. See 12 Friday, 1 p.m.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Xavier. 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$3 (youths under 18, \$1; U-M students with ID, free). 764-0247.

Family Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. John Freeman and David Williams call dances and lead party games. Live music by David West, Donna Baird, and Mark Williams. 2-4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). \$6 (family, \$12; Grange members, \$5; Grange family, \$10). 662-3371.

19th Annual 'Nuttercracker' Ballet: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 19 Friday, 2 p.m.

"The Home Team": Performance Network Professional Season. See 4 Thursday, 2 p.m.

Christmas Concert: Third Millennium Chamber Chorus. Alex Cave directs a mixed-voice 15-member chorus of singers from the Third Millennium Chorale, the Ann Arbor Cantata Singers, and the Vocal Arts Ensemble. The program of sacred and secular Christmas music includes a 6-part Schuetz motet, John Gardner's brilliantly rhythmic "Dancing Day," a rollicking seasonal drinking song by Vaughan Williams, and more. A benefit for the Cantata Singers. 3:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. \$10 (students & seniors, \$7; families, \$30) by reservation and at the door. 222-3330.

***Christmas Concert:** St. Luke Lutheran Church. St. Luke music director Jeff Greunke leads the adult choir in a program of choral anthems and Christmas favorites. Refreshments. 4 p.m., St. Luke, 4205 Washenaw. Free; donations accepted. 971-0550.

***Christmas Pageant:** St. Aidan's Episcopal Church/Northside Presbyterian Church. A festive afternoon starts with the annual Christmas pageant, performed by the children of both congregations. Followed by a group carol sing and refreshments. 7 p.m., St. Aidan's/Northside, 1679 Broadway at Baits Dr. Free. 663-5503.

2nd Annual Ann Arbor Musicians for Peace Benefit Concert: The Ark. Several local folk, rock, and roots bands and singer-songwriters perform their own and others' antiwar and peace songs. Performers include singer-songwriters Jay Stielstra, Dick Siegel, Chris Buhalis, Sari Brown, Dave Boutette, Jan Krist, Brian Lillie, Kevin Meisel, David Mosher, Jim Roll, Jo Serrapere, Whit Hill, Heidi Snyder, and Matt Watroba, and the bands Delta 88, The Flying Latini Brothers, FUBAR, and The Songcatchers. Proceeds benefit the Ann Arbor Area Committee for Peace. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$11 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"The Truth about Teeth": Dreamland Theater. See 5 Friday, 8 p.m.

FILMS

Madstone. "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). See 19 Friday. Madstone, times TBA. Michigan Theater Foundation. "Miracle on 34th Street" (George Seaton, 1947). Delightful comedy-fantasy of a department store Santa who, after meeting a skeptical child, is hauled into court to prove his identity. Edmund Gwenn, Natalie Wood, Maureen O'Hara, John Payne. FREE. 668-8397. Michigan Theater, times TBA. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "The Cooler" (Wayne Kramer, 2003). See 19 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

22 MONDAY

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Delaware State. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$21. 764-0247.

FILMS

Madstone. "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). See 19 Friday. Madstone, times TBA. MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times

TBA. "The Cooler" (Wayne Kramer, 2003). See 19 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

23 TUESDAY

***"Movies for Kids":** Ann Arbor District Library. December 23 & 26 (different programs and branch locations). Showing of a feature film TBA. 2 p.m., AADL West (Dec. 23) & Northeast (Dec. 26) branches. Free. 327-4200.

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 2 Tuesday, 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

FILMS

Madstone. "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). See 19 Friday. Madstone, times TBA. MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "The Cooler" (Wayne Kramer, 2003). See 19 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "The Underworld." "Anime Night." See 2 Tuesday. The Underworld, 9-11 p.m.

24 WEDNESDAY (Christmas Eve)

***Lessons and Carols:** St. Aidan's Episcopal Church/Northside Presbyterian Church. Scripture readings alternate with hymns and sacred carols. 10:30 a.m., St. Aidan's/Northside, 1679 Broadway at Baits Dr. Free. 663-5503.

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks Department. December 24 & 31. Skating to music by a DJ, for adults (11 a.m.-1 p.m.) & youths (1:15-5 p.m.). 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$4.25 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$3.50). Skate rentals available (\$2). 761-7240.

***"Twas the Light Before Christmas":** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. The St. Andrew's Children's Choir and Sunday School presents Lynn Hodges and Jan Esterline's children's Christmas musical. 4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

***Lessons and Carols:** First Presbyterian Church. The traditional program of Scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns performed by the church's chancel choir and Liberty Brass Quintet. Includes music by Handel, Cornelius, Pinkham, Praetorius, and Persichetti. 5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washenaw. Free. 662-4466.

***Lessons and Carols:** St. Aidan's Episcopal Church/Northside Presbyterian Church. Scripture readings alternate with hymns and sacred carols. Preceded at 5 p.m. by a storytime with Christmas tales told by church members. 6 p.m., St. Aidan's/Northside, 1679 Broadway at Baits Dr. Free. 663-5503.

***Pergolesi's Magnificat:** St. Thomas the Apostle Church. St. Thomas music director Gregory Hamilton leads the St. Thomas choir and orchestra in Pergolesi's soaring Magnificat. Also, works by Teleman. 11:30 p.m., St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, State at Kingsley. Free. 944-0243.

FILMS

Madstone. "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). See 19 Friday. Madstone, times TBA. MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "The Cooler" (Wayne Kramer, 2003). See 19 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

25 THURSDAY (Christmas Day)

FILMS

Madstone. "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). See 19 Friday. Madstone, times TBA. MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "The Cooler" (Wayne Kramer, 2003). See 19 Friday. Mich., times TBA. "Temple Beth Emeth." "The Sound of Music" (Robert Wise, 1965). Rousing sing-along screening of the classic musical about the Von Trapp family's singing nanny. Come in costume. Lyrics provided. Door prizes. \$5 in advance at templebethemeth.org. \$6 at the door. 665-4744. Michigan Theater, 10:30 a.m.

26 FRIDAY

***"Silly Stories":** Ann Arbor District Library. Storytelling program for all ages with acclaimed local storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor. 10-10:30 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-8301.

Holiday Break Science Programs: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. December 26-31. Fun science activities for kids. Today through December 28: kids can chill out by shattering nitrogen-frozen flower petals in "The Big Freeze." December 29-31, kids can learn about the science of ice cream (and make their own treats) in "We All Scream for Ice Cream." Also, December 26-January 4, activity ta-



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Max Klinger's prints
Pterodactyl nightmares

A forgotten spark plug who helped fire up the surrealist movement, German fin de siècle artist Max Klinger offers images that combine lush beauty and a screw-loose creepiness so unsettling that I found myself flipping over one downloaded image, unable to look at it any longer.

Largely unknown, Max Klinger has slipped through the cracks of the big art movements around which most old-school art history books take shape. Of three authoritative such books I checked, one gave him a paragraph, another a phrase, and the third—an Oxford edition—dropped him entirely. The *Britannica* knows better, with a generous mention deservedly equal in length to that of his more famous contemporary Gustav Klimt.

Perhaps Klinger is neglected by art history because his startling, breathtaking prints (putting aside his paintings and sculptures) combine elements of more than one identifiable style. There's swirly art nouveau stateliness, Romantic realism, and dreamlike symbolist weirdness. Add a shadowy morbidity, and the memorable result may be seen in the *Glove* series of prints on display at the U-M Museum of Art.

One of several series by Klinger, the ten *Glove* prints form a dream-narrative of a



man finding a lady's dropped glove at a roller-skating rink. From this modest start, the glove becomes the symbol of a loved one, and as the series progresses, a rising wind of increasingly intense and dreamlike images mounts to an inferno of obsession that slips farther from reality—it doesn't take long. Print 1 shows a group of men and women in period dress chatting at the rink. Even now, something's tilted and shadowy about the reflections in the windows behind them. Print 2 shows a roller-skating man leaning down to retrieve the glove, dropping his hat in his haste. Print 3 resembles a Tarot card symbolizing sadness, with a man weeping before the glove laid beneath a lacy tree next to a lone candle.

And we're off into a raging night sea where a boat captain tries to fish the glove

from whitecaps. The glove attains life in print 5, holding the reins of a lordly chariot riding on ornate curlicues. It becomes threatening, creeping over bedclothes to a dreaming man pillowed in an illogical litter of dream-images made real objects.

Curator Carole McNamara's favorite (mine too, although it's the one I had to flip over) is print 9. A batlike pterodactyl flies away from a building at night, the glove in its beak. Two arms have smashed through two now-jagged broken panes of a closed window, with the pterodactyl's tail tip barely between the desperate hands about to grab it.

You can catch the pterodactyl and the other images at UMMA December 20 through February 29.

—Laura Bartlett

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New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library. *Paper Snowflakes; Traditional Chinese Art; Celebrate Flight* (December 2–30). 327–4510.

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Visions of Peace* (December 1–January 31). 668–0327.

Dave's Photo Emporium. *Robert Zeichner: Michigan Photographs* (December 1–January 30). 827–0080.

Dreamland Theater. *The Poster* (December 1–31). 657–2337.

EMU Ford Gallery. *Watercolors by Todd Marsee* (December 8–12). *Paintings by Adrian Deva* (December 15–19). *Holiday All-Media Art Sale* (December 20–23). 487–0465.

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals). *Snowflake Papercuttings by Thomas Clark; Lots o' Pots by Philip Wilson; Seasonal Lithographs by Sandra Somers; Native American Ceramics and Bronzes by Shirley Brauker; Art Quilts by Ann Kowalski; Lives of Teddy Bears by Jo Heathcote; Children's Book Illustrations by Michael Glenn Monroe; Handwoven Art Clothing by Carol Furtado; Oil Paintings by Suzanne Beutler* (December 15–February 11). 936-ARTS.

Kerrytown Concert House. *Black-and-White Photography by Dick Dokas* (December 1–31). 769–2999.

Paloma Gallery. *Works by Nele Zirnite, Patrick Thompson, and Judy Eliyas* (December 11–31). 213–3575.

U-M LS&A Honors Program. *LS&A Honors Student Photographs* (December 1–January 31). 764–6274.

U-M Media Union. *A Visual Indication of Natural Resources Consumption in Everyday Objects* (December 5–7). Reception 5 Friday, 5 p.m. *U-M Global Products Development Course Final Project Exhibition* (December 9). 763–3266.

U-M Museum of Art. *Divine Encounters, Earthly Pleasures: 20 Centuries of Indian Art* (December 13–February 29). *Surrealism from the Collection of the UMMA. Max Klinger's A Glove* (December 20–February 29; see review, above). *India Viewed from Afar: The Fantastical Engravings of Bernard Picart* (December 6–March 14). 764-UMMA.

U-M Pierpont Commons. *Works by Judy Enright* (through December 19). *Nick Stanko: Living Spaces* (December 1–19). Reception for both artists 11 Thursday, 5–7 p.m. 647–6838.

U-M Residential College/East Quad Art Gallery. *End-of-Term Show of Student Work* (December 6–20). 763–0176.

U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art). *Landscapes of Man* (December 10–22). 763–4417.

U-M Special Collections Library. *From Papyrus to King James: The Evolution of the English Bible* (through January 31). 764–9377.

Warren Robbins Center (U-M School of Art). *The Spectacular Santa Show* (December 5–January 5). Reception 5 Friday, 6–9 p.m. 764–0397.

Washington Street Gallery. *Lynda Cole: Silver and Water* (December 2–24). Reception 5 Friday, 7–10 p.m. 761–2287.

Washtenaw Community College GalleryOne. *Charlotte Salomon: Life? or Theater?* (through December 13). 477–8512.

Work. *Off the Wall: The 3-D Show* (December 5–January 4). Reception 5 Friday, 6–9 p.m. 998–6178.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2003–2004 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or www.arborweb.com.

bles open during museum hours offer kids a chance to make Eskimo snow goggles and experiment with blubber gloves. 1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 219 E. Huron. \$7.50 (students & seniors, \$6) regular museum admission. 995–5439.

★**Ann Arbor Film Fans.** All invited to join an informal discussion of favorite movies. Early evening time TBA, location TBA. Free. 665–5563.

★**"Santa's Elves on Strike": Dexter Community Players.** December 26–29. Jenna Crawford directs former Dexter resident Mark Friesen's merry musical about labor unrest at the North Pole. When Santa gives up making toys out of disillusion with grasping modern kids, his idled elves go on strike and are tossed in jail. A dispirited Santa determines to make the best of things. The catchy score ranges from the two-hanky "Christmas Isn't Christmas Anymore" to the toe-tapping finale "We've Got Work to Do." 7:30 p.m., Copeland School theater, 7714 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd., Dexter. Tickets \$7 in advance at the Dexter Library; \$10 at the door (kids 12 & under, \$5). 426–5060.

★**Pagan Chant Night: Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path.** All invited to join local pagans to learn, recite, and sing catchy pagan chants like "Fur and Feather," "Blood of the Ancients," and "Mother, I Feel You under My Feet." Bring a chant (handouts appreciated) and a tape recorder. 8 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center, 1910 Hill. Free. 677–8211.

Keith Ruff: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. December 26 & 27. This up-and-coming Detroit-area African American comic is known for his crisp, clever, slightly twisted topical commentary and for his high-spirited, often whimsical performing style. Opening act is **Bam Bam**, a burly Detroit comic. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are non-smoking shows. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. \$8 reserved seating in advance, \$10 general admission at the door. 996–9080.

FILMS

Madstone. "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). See 19 Friday. Madstone, times TBA. **Michigan Theater Foundation.** "21 Grams" (Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, 2003). December 26–31. A tragic accident links the lives of a bereaved mother, a dying math professor, and a born-again ex-con in this wrenching study of guilt and redemption. Sean Penn, Benicio Del Toro, Naomi Watts. \$8 (children, students, & seniors, \$6.25; MTF members, \$5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"** (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA.

27 SATURDAY

★**Middle Way Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join the inaugural meeting of this bimonthly book club to discuss *Choose Hope: Your Role in*

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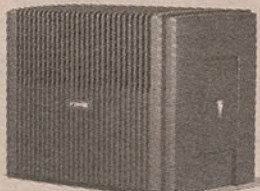
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27 SATURDAY EVENTS continued

Waging Peace in the Nuclear Age, Daisaku Ikeda's moving dialogue between Japanese and American peace activists. 1 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 995-0937.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. UCLA. 5 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$21. 764-0247.

★Game Night: Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project. All invited to bring their favorite card or board game to play. 7-9 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 995-9867.

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. December 27 & 28. 2 evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance headlined by Liz Carroll, a fiddler known for what one reviewer called "quicksilver lines" who was named 2000 Traditional Musician of the Year by the Irish Echo. Also, young fiddlers from Mike Gavin's School of Music and students from the Heinzman School of Irish Step Dancing, and other surprise guests TBA. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"Santa's Elves on Strike": Dexter Community Players. See 26 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"Video Alkalyze": Dreamland Theater. Monthly screening of unusual short films by local filmmakers, accompanied by self-styled "alkaloid fusion" by the Dreamland Band. 8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Depot Town, Ypsilanti. \$2. 657-2337.

"Does Your House Not Dream?": Canterbury House. A benefit festival featuring solo, duo, and trio performances of new music from a lineup of local luminaries. Performers: nationally acclaimed avant-jazz keyboardist Steve Rush, Brooklyn-based violist Jessica Pavine, percussionist Jeremy Edward, multi-instrumentalist Leah Paul, tenor saxophonist Matt Bauder, local reedmen Dan Bennett and Michael Herbst, and trumpeter Ingrid Racine. Nicaraguan food, fair trade coffee, and other beverages available. Proceeds benefit Dora Ubeda, a Nicaraguan who has hosted Ann Arborites traveling to Matagalpa whose house was recently destroyed. 7:30 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. \$5 minimum admission; additional donations requested. 764-3162.

Keith Ruff: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 26 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★Mady Kouyate: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. This Senegalese-born, Malian-trained singer-musician, who currently lives in Ann Arbor, plays the kora, a 21-string lute-harp. His repertoire includes folktales with traditional melodies performed in the traditional style. 8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-9468.

FILMS

Ann Arbor District Library. "Anime Festival." December 27-30 (different programs and branch locations). Today: *Chinese Ghost Story* (Andrew Chan, 1997). Anime adaptation of the hit 80s live-action comedy about a young debt collector who has to dodge pursuit by 2 competing ghostbusters when his work takes him to a town full of ghosts and he falls in love with one. FREE. 327-4200. AADL Northeast Branch (Plymouth Mall), 2 p.m. Madstone. "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). See 19 Friday. Madstone, times TBA. MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "21 Grams" (Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, 2003). See 26 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

28 SUNDAY

★"Winter Trees and Shrubs": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to demonstrate how to identify trees and shrubs in the winter. 2 p.m., meet at Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd. (15 miles west of US-23), Chelsea. Free. 971-6337.

"Santa's Elves on Strike": Dexter Community Players. See 26 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Crossroads Ceili": The Ark. See 27 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

FILMS

AADL. "Anime Festival." See 27 Saturday. Today: *Spring and Chaos* (Shoji Kawamori, 1996). Anime feature about the tragic life of the beloved 19th-century Japanese poet Kenji Miyazawa. FREE. Northeast Branch, 2 p.m. Madstone. "A Christmas Story" (Bob Clark, 1983). See 19 Friday. Madstone, times TBA. MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "21 Grams" (Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, 2003). See 26 Friday. Mich., times TBA.



L.A.-based comic Peter Berman, a U-M grad, brings his energetic observational comedy to the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase Dec. 4-6.

29 MONDAY

★Mark Criley: Ann Arbor District Library. This best-selling Michigan comic artist, author of the acclaimed *Akiko* series of comic books, discusses his career and his writing and drawing techniques and demonstrates his character drawings. 2-3 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327-4200.

"Santa's Elves on Strike": Dexter Community Players. See 26 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

FILMS

AADL. "Anime Festival." See 27 Saturday. Today: *Love Hina: Moving In* (Yoshiaki Iwasaki, 2002). Hilarious romantic comedy about a young man, twice rejected for admission by Tokyo University, who decides to move into his grandmother's apartment complex to study. But his grandmother has vanished, and he finds himself the manager of an apartment complex full of hostile young women—one of whom may be the long-lost childhood sweetheart to whom he made a promise to get a university education. FREE. 327-8301. AADL multipurpose room (343 S. Fifth Ave. at William), 2 p.m. MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "21 Grams" (Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, 2003). See 26 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

30 TUESDAY

★"Fairy Tales by Magic": Ann Arbor District Library. Wilma Jensen appears as Fairy Godmother Wanda for a storytelling program featuring her fractured humor and magic wand. 11 a.m.-noon (West Branch), 2-3 p.m. (Northeast Branch), & 7-8 p.m. (main library multipurpose room). Free. 327-4200 (branches), 327-8301 (main library).

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Boston University. 7 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$15 & \$21. 764-0247.

★"Buddha's Enlightenment Commemoration": Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. All invited to sit in meditation. Sittings begin at 8 and 10 p.m., and meditators are encouraged to stay until 10 p.m., midnight, or 4 a.m. Suggested offerings: flowers, fruit, candles, nuts, incense, dried food, money. 8 p.m.-4 a.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free. 761-6520.

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 2 Tuesday. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

FILMS

AADL. "Anime Festival." See 27 Saturday. Today: *Ranma: The Movie* (Shuji Iuchi, 1991 & 1992). Showing of both parts of this anime fantasy about the misadventures of 2 young martial artists—one of them under a spell that transforms him into a girl when he's doused with cold water—who are betrothed by arranged marriage. FREE. 327-8301. AADL multipurpose room (343 S. Fifth Ave. at William), 2 p.m. MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. "21 Grams" (Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, 2003). See 26 Friday. Mich., times TBA. The Underworld. "Anime Night." See 2 Tuesday. The Underworld, 9-11 p.m.

31 WEDNESDAY (New Year's Eve)

★"Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind": Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. All invited to

join an annual year-end candle-lighting ceremony that includes meditation, chanting, and a talk. It is repeated at 10:30 a.m. on January 1. 7 p.m., *Zen Buddhist Temple*, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free. 761-6520.

"12th Annual New Year Jubilee": Ypsilanti Visitors & Convention Bureau. This festival usually draws about 2,500 visitors and features more than 2 dozen area favorites performing around Depot Town in Ypsilanti.

At the Riverside Arts Center: Clowns **Lovely and Dan the Balloon Man** (all evening). Children's folk music by **Gemini** (7-9 p.m.). Bluegrass by **Coup de Grass** (9:15-midnight). Comedy by the unpredictable "New Age vaudevillian" **O. J. Anderson** (7-7:45 p.m. & 9:15-10:30 p.m.). Family songs by **Kevin Devine** (8-9 p.m.).

At the Freight House: Country by **Strings and Things** (6:30-7:30 p.m.). African hand drumming by **Like Water Drumworks** (7:30-9:15 p.m.). Honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll by **George Beard & the Kingpins** (9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.).

At St. Luke's: Mime and comedy by **Lee Michael and Opus Mime** (7-9 p.m.). Folk blues and jazz by **Madcat & Kane** (9:15-midnight). Comedy and magic by **Boyer & Fitzsimmons** (6:30-7:15 p.m. & 7:30-8:15 p.m.). Cajun and zydeco by **Maison Bleue** (8:30-10:30 p.m.).

At Cross Street Village: hammered dulcimer music by **Charlene Berry** (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Barber-shop by **The Rhythms** (7-7:45 p.m.). Elvis tribute artist **Chris Solano** (8-8:45 p.m.).

At First Presbyterian Church: Jazz by the **Paul VornHagen Trio** (9 p.m.-midnight). Jazz by **Jake Reichbart** (9-11:30 p.m., location TBA). Opera by **Arbor Opera Theater** (time TBA).

At the Dreamland Theater: Early jazz standards and Hot Club-style gypsy jazz by the **Royal Garden Trio** (7:30 & 8:30 p.m.). A puppet show, "The Snow Queen in 7 Stories" (7 & 8 p.m.).

At First United Methodist Church: Celtic fiddling by **Jeremy Kittel** (7-7:45 & 8-8:45 p.m., auditorium). Elvis tribute artist **Chris Solano** (9-10 p.m.). Blues and folk by **Robert Jones & Matt Watroba** (7-9 p.m.). Boogie-woogie and blues piano by **Mr. B** (9 p.m.-12:30 a.m., rotunda). Blues by **Blues Infusion** (9-11:30 p.m.).

At the Michigan Firehouse Museum: Storyteller **Marlena Shuler** (7-7:45 p.m.). Folk by the quartet **Old Friends 4** (8-8:45 p.m.). Elvis tribute artist **Chris Solano** (9:15-10 p.m.).

At the Ypsilanti Historical Museum: classical and flamenco guitar by **Joseph Pratt** (7:30-9:30 p.m.).

At the Ypsilanti District Library: storytelling by **LaRon Williams** (7-9 p.m.).

At the Automotive Museum: Houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock by the quintet the **Terraplanes** (7-10 p.m.). 7-12:30 p.m., various Ypsilanti locations. Admission tickets \$20 (kids 6-16, \$5; 5 and under, free) in advance at Busch's, the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor convention and visitors bureaus; and at the door. For information and a detailed schedule of events, call 483-4444 or 995-7281.

Tim Walkoe: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. This popular Chicago comic, the grand prize winner on ABC's *America's Funniest People*, mixes song parodies with rapid-fire series of one-liners, jokes, and topical observations.

Opening act is **Frank Roche**, a Detroit comic who does impressions. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. Tickets \$25.50 (8 p.m.) & \$29.50 (10:30 p.m.) in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

Shahida Nurullah: Bird of Paradise. Big-voiced Detroit jazz singer who specializes in blues, ballads, Brazilian tunes, and pop standards. She is backed by the **Ron Brooks Trio**, a local ensemble led by bassist (and Bird of Paradise owner) Brooks and featuring pianist Tad Weed and drummer Pete Siers. 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Bird of Paradise, 306 S. Main. Tickets (price TBA) in advance and at the door. 662-8310.

George Benson Quartet: The Firefly Club. Mainstream jazz led by this veteran Detroit saxophonist. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. \$40 (includes dinner buffet & champagne toast) at the door only. 665-9090.

Todd Snider: The Ark. Best known for his hilarious 1994 single "Alright Guy," this folk-rock singer-songwriter from Memphis has a sharp ear for colloquial speech and an alternately grim or whimsical sense of humor, and he likes to write about last-chance romances, street-corner losers, and other phenomena on the alluringly dark margins of everyday life. The Ark calls him "the witty, goofy, and tender poet of happy hour across America." 10 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$25 (includes champagne toast & party favors) in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

New Year's Bash: Cavern Club. Dancing to two bands and a DJ in 3 different clubs in the Cavern Club complex. In the Cavern Club: **Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players**, a Detroit blues band led by Joce'lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." In the Millennium Club: **Killer Flamigos**, a veteran band from Wayne that plays rock 'n' roll covers and originals. In the Gotham City Club: Top 40 dance music with **DJ Tommy**. 10 p.m.-2 a.m., Cavern Club, 210 S. First. \$50 includes buffet & champagne toast. Reservations recommended. 332-9900, (800) 653-6466.

The Bang!: The Blind Pig. This local DJ collective plays garage and 70s rock. Opening acts are **Saturday Looks Good to Me**, an eclectic local pop-rock band led by the ubiquitous Fred Thomas, and **The Avatars**, a local garage rock band. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. \$15 (ages 18-20, \$18) at the door only. 996-8555.

Cloud Nine Music: Leopold Bros. Brewery. Reunion of this popular funk-rock instrumental-oriented party band from Jackson featuring the deep, raspy vocals of bassist Jamie Register. Opening act is **Nomo**, an Afrobeat ensemble led by saxophonist Elliot Bergman and featuring Cloud Nine members Register and drummer Dan Piccolo. 10 p.m.-2 a.m., Leopold Bros. north parking lot, 523 S. Main. \$15 in advance and at the door. 747-9806.

FILMS

MTF. "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" (Peter Jackson, 2003). See 17 Wednesday. Mich., times TBA. **"21 Grams"** (Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, 2003). See 26 Friday. Mich., times TBA.



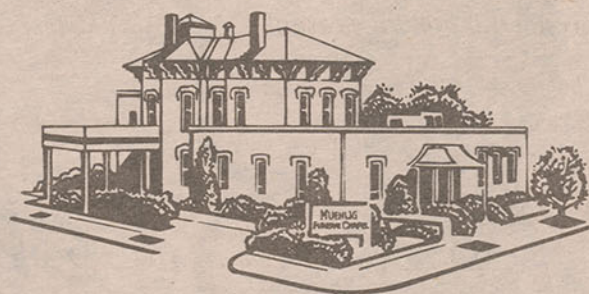
Austin's high-spirited Asylum Street Spankers play their offbeat combination of silly lyrics set to a blend of old-time music genres, at the Ark Dec. 2.

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So, I'm at hangin' at this Halloween party at a bar and I see this hot cheerleader playing pool. So, I send over a **Ciclón** and cola to her, and mosey on over there myself. As I get closer, I notice that she's got a beard. Yikes! It's just some dude in a cheerleader costume. He thanks me for the drink, and says, "You up for some eight ball?" I say, sure, might as well. Then he proceeds to kick my butt. I mean he spanked me hard. Come to find out he's a six-time national eight ball champ.

But hey, even though I lost 19 times in a row, I did pick up some valuable tips. The biggest one, of course, is never try to pick up a bearded cheerleader!



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MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who's playing, it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

The Ark

316 S. Main

761-1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Cover, no dancing. All shows begin at 8 p.m. (Sun., 7:30 p.m.) unless otherwise noted. **Dec. 2: Asylum Street Spankers.** Neohippie old-time string band. See Events. **Dec. 3: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. The first 12 acts to sign up beginning at 7:30 p.m. get to perform. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. \$3 (members & students, \$2). **Dec. 4: Madcat & Kane.** Acclaimed local blues, folk, & jazz duo. See Events. **Dec. 5: Special Consensus.** Ace bluegrass band from Illinois. See Events. **Dec. 7: Jeremy Kittel & Friends.** Ensemble led by award-winning local Scottish fiddler Kittel. See Events. **Dec. 11: "Sing-Along with Michael Cooney."** Sing-along led by this veteran folkie. See Events. **Dec. 12: Fonnimhor.** Celtic-rock band from Battle Creek. See Events. **Dec. 13: Josh White Jr.** Veteran folk singer. See Events. **Dec. 15: Mike Marshall & Chris Thile.** Mandolin duo. See Events. **Dec. 16: Jane Siberry.** Art-rock singer-songwriter. See Events. **Dec. 18: Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band.** Calypso and reggae by this popular Trinidad-born, Ypsilanti-based percussion ensemble. See Events. **Dec. 19: RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed*, a 1994 Ark performance. **Dec. 20: Finvarra's Wren.** Celtic music by this local trio. See Events. **Dec. 21: Ann Arbor Musicians For Peace.** Benefit performance by this collective of several top-notch local singer-songwriters and bands. **Dec. 27: "Crossroads Ceili."** An evening of Irish music and dance headlined by fiddler Liz Carroll. See Events. **Dec. 31: Todd Snider.** Folk-rock singer-songwriter from Memphis. See Events.

Bird Of Paradise

312 S. Main

662-8310

Intimate jazz club owned by prominent jazz bassist Ron Brooks. Live music 7 nights a week, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. (Fri.-Sun.) & 8 p.m.-midnight (Mon.-Thurs.). Cover (unless otherwise noted), no dancing. **Every Sun.: Jazz Jam Session.** All jazz musicians invited. Hosted by pianist Jon Nam. **Every Mon. (except Dec. 29): Mark Kieswetter.** This jazz pianist is accompanied by bassist Ron Brooks. **Every Tues. & Thurs.: Ron Brooks Trio.** One of the state's finest jazz bassists, club owner Brooks is joined by pianist Tad Weed and drummer Pete Siers. With occasional guest vocalists TBA. **Every Wed. (except Dec. 31): Jon Nam Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by pianist Nam, a U-M music student. **Dec. 5 (5:30-8 p.m.): "Happy Jazzy Friday."** Jazz, R&B, & blues by a band TBA. **Dec. 5 & 6: Shahida Nurullah.** This big-voiced Detroit jazz singer specializes in blues, ballads, and pop standards. **Dec. 12 (6-8:30 p.m.): Tom Loncaric and His Orchestra Featuring Paul King.** 6-piece local swing jazz ensemble, led by pianist Loncaric and featuring vocalist Paul King, that released a vinyl LP, *I'm Crazy about My Baby*. **Dec. 12 & 13: Betty Joplin.** Jazz ensemble fronted by Joplin, a silky-voiced jazz singer from Lansing with a vocal style somewhere between Aretha Franklin and Natalie Cole and a repertoire that blends Sarah Vaughan and Nancy Wilson. She is backed by the Ron Brooks Trio. **Dec. 19 (6-8:30 p.m.): Tom Loncaric and His Orchestra Featuring Paul King.** See above. **Dec. 19 & 20: Jeff Kressler Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by pianist Kressler. **Dec. 26 (6-8:30 p.m.): Tom Loncaric and His Orchestra featuring Paul King.** See above. **Dec. 26 & 27: Bob Mervak.** Detroit jazz vo-

Gregory Stovetop Bubbling enthusiasm

If other bands have frustrated me recently by being too cool or too serious of purpose to fully experience their own artistic possibilities, I'm relieved to find Gregory Stovetop bursting onto the Ann Arbor scene. Affable, earthy, and explosive, this solo singer-songwriter—protected only by his acoustic guitar—throws himself into his songs and performances.

To borrow my mother's lament on how quickly I used to go through a pair of shoes, I'd have to say Stovetop "wears his guitar hard." His energetic strumming, often overlaid with fancy, melodic finger work, squeezes every bit of volume and verve from his instrument. At a recent performance, he started out with a borrowed guitar after breaking a string on his own during the sound check... and then broke another string early in his set.

Endless gusto can be a bit much in a show if there's no counterpoint of quieter numbers. At times Stovetop is a little, well, over the top. Even so, many of his tunes adopt a bolero style that starts quiet and slow and gradually rises in intensity and speed, finishing with repetitive, driving rhythmic lines. And his sheer enthusiasm for his developing craft begs indulgence. Add to this his boyish pink cheeks and mop of unruly hair, and you'll find it easy to root for Stovetop as a Tom Sawyer-meets-Richie Havens character.

His vocal style is equally earnest. The first thing you'll likely notice is a tendency to bleat out notes, rather like a lamb or gurgling brook. I'm not talking vibrato here, just a singing style that seems to bubble forth uncontrollably. He can also draw out a single vowel, changing its shape several

times on his way to whisper-singing the end of the word.

By alternating vocal lines with complicated guitar refrains—and the occasional pregnant pause of surprising silence—he creates a well-balanced sound for a solo performer. He also looks comfortable with himself all alone on stage. But he does have a tendency to sing with his head thrown back too often, as if howling at the moon.

That might not be an inappropriate impression, given the lyrical content of many of his compositions. At least five of the numbers on his six-song self-titled CD draw from themes of nature to express love, awe, and gratitude. It's easy to sound clichéd when writing about the moon, sky, and stars, but Stovetop avoids this danger with clever phrasing and captivating imagery. "All your dreams are stars inside of me," he offers in one love song, along with these lines: "Our hearts light up the sky / the opening of the eyes / a girl and a guy /

rain or shine / hello and good-bye / give up or try."

Let's hope Stovetop doesn't give up, and doesn't let the inevitably subtler stylings of maturity dampen the fire in his belly. He's at the Crazy Wisdom Tea Room on Friday, December 26.

—Stephanie Kadel-Taras



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

calist. **Dec. 29: Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble.** Progressive to mainstream jazz by this highly regarded pianist, a Jackson, Michigan, native. **Dec. 31: Shahida Nurullah.** Detroit jazz singer. See Events.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First

996-8555

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, occasional early shows, 7-10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **Dec. 2: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Dec. 3: TBA.** **Dec. 4: TBA.** **Dec. 5: Rootstand.** Local band whose music blends bluegrass, blues, reggae, and Celtic folk idioms and instrumentation. **Dec. 6: "Johnny Cash Memorial Concert."** With several local bands and singer-songwriters. See Events. **Dec. 9: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Dec. 10: TBA.** **Dec. 11: Dropjaw.** Melodic Ypsilanti emote band. Opening acts are the popular Detroit hip-hop duo Switchstance, the Kalamazoo emopunk band *The Transfer*, local hip-hop DJ Alf-1, and local hip-hop MC Self Says. **Dec. 12: The Riots.** Retro punk band. Opening acts are the in-your-face Ypsilanti country-punk band Glori5, the Irish-flavored rock band *The Questions*, and *The Scars*, a local rock 'n' roll trio that's been described as a cross between the Jesus & Mary Chain and Mazzy Star. **Dec. 13: Chrome Mali.** Local rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are *The Kingsnakes*, a Downriver band that plays straight-ahead, full-throttle 70s-style rock 'n' roll,

and *Krescent 4*, a progressive blues-rock band from Blissfield. Also, a set by the *Everyothers*, a New York City garage rock band. **Dec. 16: The Mephi.** Local pop band. Opening acts are *The Gryphon Shepherd*, a jam-oriented quintet from Ypsilanti, and *Fifth Period Fever*, a local pop band. **Dec. 17: Human Wick Effect.** Ypsilanti math-metal band. Opening acts are the Toledo-based rock band *Tastes Like Chicken*, the local hardcore band *Meat Slicer*, and *Drag King* (see Elbow Room). **Dec. 18: Inner Recipe.** Local pop-rock band. Opening acts are *The Hush*, a synth-rock band, and *Red Edison*, a local rock 'n' roll band. **Dec. 19: Rome for a Day.** Chicago indie rock band. Opening acts are the Detroit rock band *Heads Will Roll*, the Detroit pop band *Thunderbirds Are Now*, and the Ypsilanti-based indie rock band *The Uncut*. **Dec. 20: The Flirt.** Old-school Detroit punk band. Opening acts are the pop-rock band *Busy Signal*, Melt (see Elbow Room), and *Blammo*, a veteran local sextet that plays a blend of wickedly humorous, socially observant originals and choice punk covers by the likes of Patti Smith, the Dead Kennedys, X, and the Ramones. **Dec. 23: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Dec. 26: "Subterranean Presents."** MC battle (with a \$300 cash prize) by acts that record for this local label. **Dec. 27: TBA.** **Dec. 30: TBA.** **Dec. 31: The Bang!** DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. See Events.

Cafe Felix

204 S. Main

662-8650

This downtown cafe features live music Fri., 9 p.m.-midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: The Underground Jazz Quartet.** This local jazz quartet plays a mix of standards, blues, con-

temporary pieces, and originals, with an emphasis on Hammond B-3 styles of the likes of Jimmy Smith, Larry Young, and Jack McDuff. Members are guitarist Tom Sinas, organist Duncan McMillan, alto saxophonist Dean Moore, and drummer Jordan Young.

Cavern Club

210 S. First

913-8890

This downtown club, in the Celebration Cellars banquet space in the basement under the Millennium Club, features DJs on Thurs. and live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Millennium Club and Gotham City), dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Every Thurs.: "Hip-Hop Nite."** With DJs TBA. **Dec. 5 & 6: Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players.** Detroit blues band led by Joce'lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." **Dec. 12: Bugs Beddow Band.** Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. **Dec. 13: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Dec. 19: TBA.** **Dec. 20: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Wayne. **Dec. 26: Thornetta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James-style vocalist. **Dec. 27: Jerry Sprague Band.** See above. **Dec. 31: Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players.** Detroit blues band. See Events.

Club Above

215 N. Main

663-7758

This renovated dance club on the top floor of the

Heidelberg Restaurant features a variety of live and recorded music Thurs.-Sun., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Also, comedy on Tues. (see Events), and karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older admitted unless otherwise noted. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Miguel plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9-10 p.m. **Every Sun.: Mexican Night.** With live bands and/or DJs. **Dec. 4: Who's Aaron.** U-M student rock band. Opening act TBA. **Dec. 6: Roadside Zoo.** Local funk-rock dance band. Opening act is

The Royal Garden Trio. Early jazz standards and Hot Club-style gypsy jazz by this local trio led by guitarist Brian Delaney. With cellist Michael Karoub and clarinetist and tenor guitarist Tom Bogardus. **Dec. 13: High Flyin' Bird.** Local acoustic ensemble that plays an original jam-oriented brand of country-folk roots music. With vocalist Stacia Petrie, singer-guitarist Jill Jack, guitarist Billy Brandt, fiddler Jeremy Kittel, bassist Gary Rasmussen, and drummer Ron Pangborn. **Dec. 19: Ken & Billy King.** Homespun rock 'n' roll and originals by Frog Holler Farm owner Ken King, a versatile country-folk musician, and his son, Billy King. Tonight's show also features some Christmas songs and sing-alongs. **Dec. 20: Patricia Pettinga.** Folk and blues singer from Kalamazoo

Solo pianist. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Robert Warren, and a drummer TBA.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483-6374

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon., Thurs., and occasional other weeknights, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Stephanie Says."** DJ Miss Pia plays a wide range of vintage dance music, from British Invasion and Motown to disco and 80s pop. **Every Wed.: DJ Chuck.** DJ who plays everything from garage and glam to punk and contemporary rock. **Dec. 5: "Ska Night."** With DJ Chuck. **Dec. 6: KK Dirty Money.** Ypsilanti band that plays loud, raucous, melodic cowpunk roots-rock. Opening acts are the local punk band **The Idiots**, the Ypsilanti punk band **Phoenix Sidewinder**, and **The Kingsnakes**, a Downriver band that plays straight-ahead, full-throttle 70s style rock 'n' roll. **Dec. 7: The Janet Theory & Susan Said.** Indie pop-rock band. Opening act is **The God Star Social**, an indie rock band. **Dec. 11: Shinei.** Pirate punk rock. Opening acts are the all-female Detroit rock band **Monogatari**, the local rock band **Seahorse Napkin Force**, and the punk bands **Dead Walt** and the **Van Ermans**. **Dec. 12: Inner Recipe.** See Blind Pig. Opening acts are the all-female Kalamazoo rock band **Melt**, the rock band **Essex**, and the Owosso rock quartet **Vega**. **Dec. 13: Don Rader.** Detroit rockabilly pioneer whose 1956 single "Rock 'n' Roll Grandpap" is regarded as the first Detroit rock 'n' roll record. Opening acts are **The Ingham County Regulars**, a Lansing band that plays 60s honky-tonk and rockabilly, and **Jim Roll** (see Old Town). **Dec. 19: Capture the Flag.** Postpunk band from Ypsilanti. Opening acts are the noise-pop band **Drag King**, and "a band you're not in" TBA. **Dec. 20: Porchsleeper.** This local hill-billy-punk band celebrates the release of a new CD. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 27: Git.** Pop-rock band from Austin. Opening act is the popular Coldwater punk trio **Spit for Athena**. **Dec. 28: TBA.** **Dec. 31: The Widomakers**, an Ypsilanti honky-tonk and roots-rock band that recently released the CD *Poke It with a Stick*.



Veteran Detroit rockabilly and country singer Don Rader, whose 1956 single "Rock 'n' Roll Grandpap" is regarded as the first Detroit rock 'n' roll record, performs at Ypsilanti's Elbow Room Dec. 13.

Texas Tea, a local funk-rock band. **Dec. 11: Brad's Dead Fish.** Local hard-rock band. Opening act is **Liplock**, a rap-rock fusion band from Ypsilanti. **Dec. 13: Deep Space Six.** Popular local Grateful Dead cover band. **Dec. 18: The Twilight Babies.** Detroit electronica trio fronted by a female vocalist. Opening act TBA. **Dec. 27:** No music.

Club Bedrocks

2900 Jackson Rd. 665-4444

Lounge in the Best Western Suites. DJs on Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: "Mix & Mingle."** DJs spin old school, R&B, reggae, techno, and hip-hop dance records. **Every Sat.: Latino Night.** DJs play Latin dance music.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main 665-2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (6:30-10 p.m.) and Tues. & Thurs. and occasional other nights (9 p.m.-2 a.m.). **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Wed.: G. G. Woods.** Singer-guitarist. **Dec. 4: The Lash.** Celtic folk-rock originals by this very popular band from Lansing that also plays traditional Irish music, Pogues covers, and drinking songs. **Dec. 11: Bill Long.** Irish rock and American pop by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 18: The Diggers.** Traditional Irish ballads and drinking songs by this Detroit band.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main 665-9468

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30-10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 5: Matt Jones**, a local singer-songwriter known for his thoughtfully wistful songs and engaging, sweet-voiced singing. Opening act is **Dabenport**, a local lo-fi country-tinged pop band. **Dec. 6: Greg Klyma.** Lyrical roots-music originals by this singer-songwriter from Buffalo, New York. **Dec. 12:**

whose singing is known for its melodic sweetness and jazzy vocal acrobatics. **Dec. 26: Gregory Stovetop.** See review, p. 107. Local postpunk pop-folk singer-songwriter influenced by Tom Petty and Bob Dylan. **Dec. 27: Mady Kouyate.** Traditional West African music. See Events.

Del Rio

122 W. Washington 761-2530

No cover, no dancing. Live music Sun., 5:30-9 p.m., and Tues. & occasional Wed., 6-8 p.m., and reggae bands or DJs on Mon., 6-8 p.m. **Dec. 2: Kick Like Crazy.** All-female local trio, fronted by a vocalist named Ty, that plays Sleater-Kinney-style postpunk rock 'n' roll. **Dec. 7: Vincent York & Friends.** Jazz ensemble led by alto saxophonist York. **Dec. 9: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. **Dec. 14: Jake Reichbart Quartet.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Dec. 16: Laura Davidson.** Local jazz-influenced folk-rock singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist known for her luscious melodies and trenchant lyrics. Her recent songs have a strong bossa nova flavor. **Dec. 21: Vincent York & Friends.** See above. **Dec. 23: Roger Possley.** Traditional English, Scottish, and Welsh folk songs, along with Great Lakes sailing songs, by this folksinger who plays guitar, mandolin, and cittern. **Dec. 28: Bassline Jumper.** Jazz ensemble led by local bassist Kurt Krahnke. **Dec. 30: Eric Kelly.** Local singer-songwriter who writes raw, Dylanesque folk-style songs.

The Earle

121 W. Washington 994-0211

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.-Sat., 8-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillan.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.**

Espresso Royale Caffè

214 S. Main 668-1838

The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Sat., 9-11 p.m. **Every Fri.: Open Mike.** All poets and musicians invited. 8-9:30 p.m. **Dec. 6: Blue Tango.** Local folk-and-blues-inflected rock 'n' roll quintet led by vocalist Surry Scheerer and guitarist Jack Scheerer. **Dec. 13: Doug Wood.** Folk and jazz guitarist from Cleveland. **Dec. 20: Annie Capps.** See Rubber Soul. **Dec. 27: Dev Singh.** Blues, ballads, and soulful folk-styled originals by this local singer-songwriter who accompanies himself on guitar, Autoharp, mouthbow, dulcimer, and piano.

The Firefly Club

207 S. Ashley 665-9090

Jazz and blues club. Live jazz Mon., occasional Tues., Wed., & Thurs., 8 p.m.-midnight; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-1 a.m.; & Sun., 8:30-11:30 p.m. Also, happy-hour music Sun., 5-8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri. (5:30-8 p.m.): Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun. (5-8 p.m.): Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: Into the Freytlakh.** Energetic, musically inventive local avant-klezmer sextet. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Wed. (except Dec. 31): Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. **Every Thurs.: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader,

the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by free Latin dance lessons. **Dec. 5: Big Al & the Heavyweights.** New Orleans blues. See Events. **Dec. 6: Paul Keller Ensemble.** CD release party. See Events. **Dec. 9: Jazz Jam Session.** All jazz musicians invited. **Dec. 12: Herrold/Gordon Small Band.** This local jazz ensemble led by bassist Edie Herrold and guitarist Neil Gordon plays swing and Latin jazz originals and jazz standards. Other members are trumpeter Paul Finkbeiner, saxophonist Mark Kieme, and drummer Cary Kocher. The band has an acclaimed CD, *Think Big*. **Dec. 13: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, *Well Tuned*. With guitarist Dave Ferro, blues harpist and keyboardist Phil Ryski, saxophonist Willie Rankin, bassist Wendy Hayes, and drummer Lenny Gilpatrick. **Dec. 19: Urban Transport.** Hot young Detroit jazz ensemble led by drummer Sean Dobbins, trombonist Vincent Chandler, and alto saxophonist Dean Moore. **Dec. 20: Tom Saunders & the Midwest All-Stars.** Dixieland jazz ensemble. See Events. **Dec. 26: Trio Metro.** Jazz ensemble led by local guitarist Jake Reichbart. **Dec. 27: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **Dec. 31: George Benson Quartet.** Mainstream jazz. See Events. 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron 623-2070

Martini and cigar bar connected to D'Amato's restaurant. Live jazz Wed.-Sat., 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. **Every Tues.: "Deep-Chilled House & Techno."** With DJ R. Elliot. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 5: Sparklemotion.** Jazz, soul, and avant-funk originals by this local quintet. **Dec. 6: Tropidelic.** Detroit Latin jazz ensemble. **Dec. 12: The Warren Commission.** Detroit jazz quartet. **Dec. 13: The Witch Doctors.** This local blues and R&B band led by singer-guitarist Thayrone, best known as the host of the nationally syndicated *Bone Conduction Music Show*, plays what Thayrone calls "way-strong mojo, ritualistic barroom blues healing." **Dec. 19: Carl Michel Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by this local guitarist. **Dec. 20: Al Hill Band.** Blues, R&B, soul, standards, originals, and obscurities by this local quartet led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano. With bassist Pat Prouty, saxophonist Dave Luther, and a drummer TBA. **Dec. 26: Jake Reichbart Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by local guitarist Reichbart. **Dec. 27: The Terraplanes.** See Firefly.

Gotham City

210 S. First 913-8890

This downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the Millennium Club, features DJs on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern and Millennium clubs), dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Every Fri. & Sat.: House Night.** With DJ J Smooth.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636

Newly remodeled lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano (6-9 p.m.) by **Adam Riccinto** (Tues.-Fri.) and **Tom Knapp** (Sat. & Sun.). Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Miguel White, 7 p.m.-midnight. **Dec. 2-4: Soulstice.** College rock cover band from East Lansing. **Dec. 5 & 6: Nite Flight.** Local reggae and calypso band. **Dec. 9-13: Rave.** Pop dance band. **Dec. 16-18: Al Hill & the Love Butlers.** Soulful swing, New Orleans-style funk, and boogie-woogie blues by this veteran local band led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano. **Dec. 19 & 20: Bugs Beddow Band.** See Cavern Club. **Dec. 23: Hot Ice.** Dance band that plays Motown covers. **Dec. 26 & 27: Impact-7.** 7-piece Detroit dance band. **Dec. 30 & 31: No Romance.** Hard-rocking college pop cover band from East Lansing featuring former members of Soulstice.

Leonardo's

2101 Bonisteel Blvd. 764-7544

Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 5: "Salsa Night."** With a DJ TBA. 9 p.m.-midnight. **Dec. 12: "2nd Friday Swing Night."** With a live swing band TBA. Swing dance lessons (9-10 p.m.), 9 p.m.-midnight.

Millennium Club

210 S. First 913-8890

This downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the Gotham City club, features DJs Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern Club and Gotham City), dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Techno Nite.** With DJ Mad Maxx.

Mitch's Place

1301 South University 665-2650

This bar and grill features live music Tues. & frequent other nights, 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Cover, some dancing. **Every Tues.: Jerry Sprague.** Veteran local roots-rock singer-guitarist. Remainder of Dec. schedule TBA.

The Necto

510 E. Liberty 994-5436

This popular local dance club features local and national DJs 5 nights a week, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (after 10 p.m.), dancing. **Every Tues.: "Decades."** DJ Blur spins 80s, 90s, and 00s club classics. **Every Wed.: "Jump Off."** Dan Diamond spins hip-hop and R&B records. **Every Thurs.: "Lust."** House and techno with national and international guest DJs. This month: **Dmitri from Paris** (Dec. 4), **Richard Humpty Vision & Mea** (Dec. 11), and **Kenneth Thomas** (Dec. 18). **Every Fri.: "Pride."** With DJs Timmy D and Blur. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** Popular Detroit DJ Dan Diamond, recently returned from a 2-year stint in Las Vegas, plays a mix of house, hip-hop, and trance dance music.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty 662-9291

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. and occasional other nights, 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 7: Royal Garden Trio.** See Crazy Wisdom. **Dec. 14: Jim Roll.** (See *Inside Ann Arbor*, p. 14.) Nationally prominent local singer-songwriter known for his barbed alt-country-flavored folk-rock ballads and love songs. **Dec. 21: Jack Spack.** Acoustic singer-songwriter from Ypsilanti who writes heartfelt, charmingly melodic songs about the ups & downs of everyday life that span a variety of moods, from the haunting sadness of "Slow Train" to goof-ball stuff like his ode to "Spam." He is backed by **The HillRays**, an Ypsilanti bluegrass band that also plays some of its own tunes.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard 662-8283

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most nights of the week, 8-10 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Every Wed. (except Dec. 24 & 31): "Acoustic Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. The Dec. 10 open stage is for songwriters. 7:30-9:30 p.m. **Dec. 6: North.** Local semiacoustic folk-rock trio that has released a CD, *Revolutions*. **Dec. 8: "Community Drum Circle."** Hosted by John Churchville.

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church 996-2747

This campus-area club features DJs Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat., 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Mon. & Thurs.: "Jammin' DJs."** DJs TBA play dance music. **Every Wed.: "High Energy Dance Party."** With DJ John King. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Supermack.** Techno music with DJs from Supermack Productions.

Rubber Soul Records

115 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483-8834

Record shop-coffeehouse recently relocated from Depot Town. Live music, usually 1 or 2 nights a

week and usually running 8-10 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), no dancing. **Dec. 5: Annie Capps.** Local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes jazz-tinged folk-rock songs. She recently released a CD, *The Wrong Shoes*. **Dec. 6: Fields of Industry.** Local alt-country band. Remainder of December schedule TBA.

Scorekeepers Sports Bar & Grill

310 Maynard 995-0100

DJs on Tues. & Thurs., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older admitted. **Every Tues.: Dance Music.** With DJs TBA. **Every Wed.: Blues Jam.** Hosted by the **Master Tones**, a local blues band. All blues musicians and vocalists invited. **Every Thurs.-Sat.: Dance Music.** With DJs TBA.

Studio 4

313 S. Fourth Ave. 302-3687

This dinner club features DJs Wed.-Sun., 9 p.m.-2 a.m., playing a wide variety of dance music. Cover (women admitted free on Fri. before 11 p.m.), dancing. Age 21 & older admitted. **Every Wed.-Sun.: DJs play dance music TBA.**

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483-4470

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features karaoke on Tues., DJs on Wed., open mike on Thurs., and DJs or dance bands on Fri. & Sat. (9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.). Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. **Every Sun.: Reggae.** Old and new reggae records with One Root Sound DJ Selector Joshua. **Every Wed.: "College Remix."** With DJ Major. **Every Thurs.: Open Mike.** Hosted by Rootstand frontman Brant. All musicians invited. **Dec. 5: The Sillies.** Veteran Detroit postpunk rock 'n' roll party band. Opening acts are the **Bitter Pills**, a local old-style punk band, and **Sloop Jon Space Ranger**, a Detroit rock band. **Dec. 6: Deep Space Six.** See Club Above. **Dec. 12: Kill Press.** Alternative rock band. **Dec. 13: Smoke-stack.** Bluesy, groove-oriented Ypsilanti quintet. **Dec. 19: Rodney Love & the TC's All-Star Band.** Blues and classic rock by this local band led by singer and blues harpist Love. Preceded by a **carol sing-along** (6-9 p.m.) with pianist Rob Moses. **Dec. 20: Soot.** Local heavy-funk rock quartet. Opening act is **Wound**, an alternative rock band from Dearborn. **Dec. 26 & 27: No music.**

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482-5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music 5 nights a week, usually 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., with karaoke on Wed., 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Kris Kashew's Musical Rollercoaster.** DJ plays dance records. **Every Mon.: Open Mike Unplugged.** Hosted by **Chris Buhalis**, a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. All acoustic performers invited. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. **Every Tues.: Blues Jam.** Hosted by Toledo blues harpist **Johnny Reed**. All bands and musicians invited. **Every Thurs.: Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales**, a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All acoustic and electric musicians invited. **Dec. 5: Glenn Eddy Band.** Chicago-style blues band from Detroit led by singer-guitarist Eddy. **Dec. 6: The Kenny Parker Blues Band.** Upbeat blues and rockabilly originals by this band led by Parker, a singer-songwriter and guitarist from Toledo. **Dec. 13: Ejuana "Fire" Taylor.** Band led by this veteran Detroit R&B and soul singer. **Dec. 19 & 20: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** See Firefly. **Dec. 26 & 27: The Witch Doctors.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Dec. 31: The Martindales.** See above.

Touchdown Cafe

1220 South University 665-7777

This campus-area cafe features music Wed.-Fri., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Dec. schedule TBA.

Zydeco's

314 S. Main 995-3600

Live music Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.-midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Solo pianists TBA.**

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PERSONALS "AD OF THE MONTH"

Personals ads in the Ann Arbor Observer are eligible for our monthly contest. The winner, chosen for creativity and originality, will receive certificates for **Dinner for Two at The Earle and Coffee and Dessert for Two at Espresso Royale Caffe.**



women seeking men

Last Assyrian princess (now a Democrat), skilled in the arts of love and war. Exiled in a cold climate ISO consort, 45-65, to share the secrets of her soul. Let us see if our destinies are entwined. #5237



the earle

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A=Asian	⚡=Letters
B=Black	LTR=Long Term Relationship
C=Christian	M=Male
D=Divorced	ND=Nondrinker
F=Female	NS=Nonsmoker
G=Gay	☎=Phone Calls
H=Hispanic	P=Professional
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate	S=Single
ISO=In Search Of	W=White
J=Jewish	

women seeking men

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 10.

PERSONAL CALL (900) 226-8978

18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min. Classy **WPF**, financial analyst, 5'3", early 50s ISO 5'10"+ WPM, 45-65, NS, and hopeless romantic who loves to cook. ⚡5247

Bright, sweet, accomplished **SWF**, 38, super fit, enjoys movies, hiking, dancing, and adventure. Seeking great guy, 30-45, for LTR. ⚡5246

DWF, 59, employed, young at heart, compassionate, honest, romantic. I love to laugh. Looking for the same in a gentleman for a LTR. ⚡5233

SWF, 37, attractive, loving, caring, non-controlling. ISO dependable SM, 35-50, who enjoys life and sharing good times for friendship and possible LTR. ⚡5244

Last Assyrian princess (now a Democrat), skilled in the arts of love and war. Exiled in a cold climate ISO consort, 45-65, to share the secrets of her soul. Let us see if our destinies are entwined. ⚡5237

Enjoy walking, reading, traveling, fun? Attractive, caring, fun-loving, **DWPF**, 59, ISO honest, caring, widowed/DWPM, 55-68, for companionship, maybe LTR. ⚡5245

Attractive, fun, witty, 41, Caucasian woman enjoys music (amateur harpist), reading, writing, and walking golden retriever! Seeking down-to-earth, smart, kind guy who enjoys travel, animals, and ethnic food. ⚡5243

Female, 48, educated, Catholic, community volunteer. I tithe. Presently involved in Big Brother/Big Sister program and enjoying it. I like to go to theater, walk downtown, try new restaurants. Looking for a great conversationalist, ethical, and spiritual man. Having kids is a plus. I'm looking for a lifelong partner, someone who enjoys treating his lady like a princess. I would like to own my own business in the near future, and maybe you would also. If you're a good guy, call me. ⚡5235

ISO caring, communicative exchange with well-mannered, romantic equal. Add a bit of glee-filled banter. Lover of story, yours and mine. Mostly veggie, spirited 48, fit, attractive. ⚡5249

SWCF. Not exactly how I pictured things. European beauty, 35, brown hair, green eyes, 5'7", 130. Seeking a man who is 6'+, fit, without dependents. ⚡5250

DWF, semi-retired, semi-fit, blonde/hazel. I'm resilient, playful, and kind, with a warm smile to share with an active, N/S gentleman, 55-69 who enjoys fun and good conversation. My glass is half full. Is yours? For friendship and possible LTR. ⚡5234

Are you looking for a sweet, sensual, bright, beautiful, caring companion (maybe for life)? Look no further. **SWPF** awaits. ⚡5226

Attractive, fit, loving, intelligent, **DWPF**, 41, educated, upbeat, single mom ISO warm, intelligent, educated, family-oriented, fit, NS, PM, single dad or child lover for close friendship and possible LTR. Perhaps a blended family! I love nature, animals, romance, and time without kids too! ⚡5213

Bright Oriental beauty, 47, well-educated, enjoys music, art, and travel. Seeking gentleman, 40-60, to share life. ⚡5212

Warm **WF**, 5'10", educated, positive, sense of humor, NS. Likes good conversation, trivia, genealogy, movies, outdoors, and dogs. Seeks LTR with similar **WM**, 45-58. ⚡5149

men seeking women

PERSONAL CALL (900) 226-8978

18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. \$1.95/min.

SWM, 43, is looking for S/DF, 35-50, any race, for romance and dating. Kids OK. Must love cats and like sports, movies. If writing, please send a picture. ⚡5251

Attractive, **SWM**, 34, dark hair, blue eyes, looking for a companion. Enjoy scuba diving, traveling, reading, and hockey. Looking for friendship, possibly more. ⚡5236

Recently retired **DWM**, 58, 5'10½", 185 lbs., brown/brown. Enjoys walks, golf, bikes, movies, bridge, Scrabble, and good conversation. ISO sweet, kind, affectionate lady, 40-63, for friendship and a possible LTR. ⚡4951

SWM, 46, attractive, honest, self-employed entrepreneur, self-styled, loves nature, anti-Bush, likes NPR and Crazy Wisdom. Seeks similar or complementary woman, 35-50, for friends first. ⚡5216

DWM, 50, 5'9", 150 lbs., no children. Ph.D. scientist/farmer in conservation/ecology. ISO woman scientist for rural life, international travel, romance. ⚡4486

Educated, fit, **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39-47, who wants to be married. ⚡3031

SWM, fit, slim, intelligent, educated, honest, accommodating. Interests: books, movies, music, travel. ISO similar **SWF**, intelligent, compatible, attractive, 40s-50s. ⚡2918

SWPM, young 54, amateur violinist/chamber music addict, vegetarian, Buddhist, enjoys cycling, concerts, movies, Scrabble. ISO woman with similar interests. ⚡5025

SWPM, 46, 5'8", fit, no dependents, flexible, persevering, communicative, humorous, introspective, and more. Seeking fit, emotionally available **SWPF**, 28-45. ⚡5150

History and the arts, especially film, are just some of the many passions of this tennis-playing, 5'10½" **SWPM**, 47, NS. My only bad habit is talking too much about film. ⚡5167

DWM, 56, retired, seeks NS active lady, friends first, who likes chocolate, contra dancing, travel, nature, humor, and conversation for LTR. ⚡4943

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SWM, 42, seeks a trim, lively, optimistic, comfortable being nutty, animal loving, creative, adventurous, nonwimpy **SWF** who values depth. ⚡5231

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general personals

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Can you find the fake display ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate from one of our advertisers. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: Fake Ad, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769-3375; e-mail: penny@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

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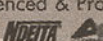
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

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NEW LISTING - NEWPORT CREEK - Another stunning custom-built home by Harris Homes in Ann Arbor's premier custom home community. Gorgeous setting with ravine views and walkout basement. The interior of this 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home is spectacular with two-story family room, gourmet kitchen with granite, and luxury master suite. \$888,200. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - TRAVIS POINTE - Incredible custom-designed home under construction in one of the area's most sought-after communities. Contemporary lines with all the features you'd expect including custom kitchen, raised ceilings, lots of windows, huge master suite, and all the high-end finishes you would expect. \$850,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



GLENNBOROUGH Harris Homes presents this outstanding 4-bedroom, 3-bath home on a spectacular walkout site in Glennborough. Perfect traditional design with 2-story foyer, den, family room with 11' ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and professional appliances, and dream master suite. \$829,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE Custom-built 4-bedroom, 4-bath home on a gorgeous wooded lot backing to common area. Upgrades throughout with spacious deck and patio, 4-car garage, Corian kitchen, tons of windows, luxury master suite, and finished basement. \$599,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



THE WATERWAYS - This custom 4-bedroom, 3½-bath is loaded with features and amenities. Stunning inside and out with extensively landscaped treed lot with very private backyard setting. Interior has stunning spaces with two-story family room, first-floor master, bonus room, and finished basement. \$579,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



HAMBURG TWP - Gorgeous custom-built home with a stately hilltop setting. The finest materials used with extensive landscaping including a waterfall. Interior includes custom cherry kitchen with granite counters, hardwood floors, dramatic spaces, and tons of moldings. \$549,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - ANN ARBOR HILLS - Gracious 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on an incredible lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired locations. Solid construction and unique spaces await you with 3 fireplaces, curved glass wall in sun room with beautiful view to backyard, and finished lower level with rec room and exercise room. \$549,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Spectacular home under construction in the Arboretum by Bayberry. This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home is a real winner with 2-story great room, first-floor master suite, 3-car garage, view out basement, and loaded with quality features. \$546,706. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100. (AM-222494)



NEW LISTING - SALINE - Bayberry construction in Saline's newest custom home community Huntington Woods. Stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath traditional design with many upgrades. Includes large kitchen with cherry and granite, oversized master suite, and walkout basement. \$495,175. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Bayberry Construction presents their most popular floor plan in Sha Estates. This design features 2-story foyer, den, open floor plan, open kitchen with maple cabinets, large family room, oversized master suite with sitting area, 3-car garage, and walkout basement. \$495,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100. (VI-219034)



NEW LISTING - SALINE - An incredible value is offered in this 3,500 sq. ft. 5-bedroom, 3½-bath in Timber Ridge. Spectacular upgrades with marble entry, maple kitchen with granite counter tops, and granite in all the baths. Two-story great room, first floor master suite, and sun room. \$485,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



HUNTINGTON WOODS - New construction by Bayberry in Saline's newest community. Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home loaded with upgrades. Open floor plan features large kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counters, great room with vaulted ceiling, and large master suite. \$451,834. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



SALINE - Super 5-bedroom, 2½-bath custom colonial on a spacious acre lot in Yorkshire Hills. Unique three-story design with Williamsburg exterior. Wonderful interior flows from open kitchen to family room, large master suite, and oversized backyard. \$429,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - ANN ARBOR - 3-bedroom, 2½-bath end unit in Ann Arbor's newest urban condo development Kessler Commons. Enjoy striking design and décor with cherry kitchen, 2-car attached garage, luxury master suite, and flex-use 3rd floor. \$384,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100 for more information.



SALINE - 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom built ranch has the most beautiful views. Located in Silo Ridge, this home has been dramatically expanded and updated. Family room has vaulted ceiling, handmade maple kitchen cabinets, screened porch, and putting green. \$379,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



NEW LISTING - ANN ARBOR - One of six brand-new 3-bedroom, 2½-bath condos in Kessler Commons. Enjoy wonderful urban living walking distance to UM Hospital, central campus, and downtown. Superior design and features with attached 2-car garage, custom kitchens, designer décor, luxury master suite, and flex-use 3rd floor. \$369,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



STONEBRIDGE - Perfect 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a spacious lot with oversized backyard. Great home with wonderful upgrades throughout. Features include professional landscaping, Whitebay kitchen with Corian counters, stone fireplace in family room, and large master suite. \$349,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



DEXTER - Lakefront handyman special on Little Portage Lake. Gorgeous views with water on two sides from this large ranch in need of updating and repair. Your vision can make this a wonderful lakefront getaway. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



PINCKNEY - Super sharp 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch condo on the golf course in Whispering Pines. This unit is loaded with upgrades highlighted by the custom kitchen with granite counter tops. Perfect lifestyle and living in one of the most gorgeous settings you will find. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



LINCOLN SCHOOLS - Super sharp 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial backing to a beautiful pond in Green Farms. You'll love the upgrades in this custom-built home with crown molding, white cabinets, large deck, and partially finished basement. \$249,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.

Real Estate

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On the Cover: The LaVogé II is in the Gallery, the newest addition to the Polo Fields. The design combines contemporary elegance with Old World charm. Great for entertaining or as a cozy haven, this house features 4 bedrooms, 4½ baths, gourmet kitchen, and home theater with stadium seating on the lower level. Other amenities include cherry hardwood and terra-cotta flooring, iron balustrades, and architectural columns.

Homes in the Gallery start at \$559,000.
BRG Custom Homes. (734) 669-0300.

Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie

Advertisers

Autumn Woods.....	120
BRG Custom Homes.....	124
Martin Bouma.....	119
Elizabeth Brien.....	120
Matt Dejanovich—Real Estate One.....	118
Real Estate One.....	122
Republic Bank.....	123
Village Cooperative Homes.....	120
Real Estate Map.....	121

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Publisher

Patricia Garcia

Editor

John Hilton

Managing Editor

Penny Schreiber

Copy Editor

Paul R. Schwankl

Assistant Editor

Sally Wright Day

Creative Director

Caron Valentine-Marsh

Production Coordinator

Ann Yoskovich

Senior Designer

Rich Chapman

Design & Production

Seth Kleinglass • Griffin Lindsay

Mike McCarty

Advertising Director

Danielle Robillard

Advertising Representatives

Julie Cole • Vikki Enos • Cindy Masini

Sandi Patterson

Classifieds Coordinator

Melanie Ballance

Home Sales Map

Kevin Duke

Business Manager

Jean Morgan

Administrative Assistant

Katie Wilson

Circulation Manager

Laura Dinkins-White

Circulation Assistant

Rebecca Groeb

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MEADOWWINDS SUB! Almost new home on a gorgeous lot backing to trees. 2,411 sq. ft. with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and a first floor study. Soaring, 2-story great room with a cozy fireplace. First floor master suite has a private, ceramic tiled bath with a whirlpool tub. Full basement with daylight windows. Loft makes a great family or play room. \$350,000.

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ARBOR POINTE! Spectacular home located in a popular Scio Township sub. 2,258 sq. ft. with 4 bedrooms, a study, and 2.5 baths. Professionally finished basement features an additional 1000 sq. ft., a beautiful wet bar, second family room and recreation area. Decorated like a model throughout. Priced very well at \$338,900.

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UNIQUE CONTEMPORARY! Stunning, multi-level home with vaulted ceilings, dramatic angles, skylights, and tons of south facing windows. Situated on a gorgeous, 1-acre lot with a stream and woods beyond. Vaulted master suite has a private bath and a balcony. Ann Arbor Schools, Scio Township taxes. \$322,900.

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HICKORY POINTE! Contemporary home featuring a large, open living area with cathedral ceilings and southern exposure for a bright and cheery atmosphere all year long. Situated on a premium lot that backs to a park-like common area. Desirable first floor master suite. Full, walk-out basement. Ann Arbor Schools. \$259,900.

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HURON FARMS! Immaculate 'Devonshire' model located in a terrific Dexter sub. Just built in 2001, this home features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and a finished basement with 10' ceilings. Great room with wood burning fireplace. Kitchen has white Merillat cabinets, hardwood floors, and a sunny nook. Vaulted master suite. \$247,900.

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FAMILY COLONIAL! Very well maintained home with 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Formal living and dining rooms. Family room has a brick fireplace, skylights, and sliding glass doors that open to a deck overlooking the fenced back yard. Partially finished basement with new carpet, vinyl and glass block windows. \$229,900.

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SCIO TOWNSHIP! Large home with 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, and 2 studies. Situated on a very private 1.58 acres. Gorgeous, redwood screened porch. Master suite has an elevated terrace overlooking the backyard and woods. \$398,000.

RENOVATED FARMHOUSE!

Beautifully redone farmhouse on 1.8 acres in Saline. Surprisingly open interior with 2,818 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, a study, and 3 baths. New kitchen has cherry cabinets, stainless appliances and ceramic tile. \$329,900.

THE RAVINES! Contemporary ranch with a very open and light-filled interior. Vaulted living room features skylights and a wood burning fireplace. Master suite has a private bath with a jacuzzi tub. Full, finished basement. \$255,000.

NORTHSIDE RANCH! Excellent Ann Arbor location for this updated ranch. 1,308 sq. ft. with 3 bedrooms and 1.5 baths. Kitchen redone with granite counters and pergo flooring. Basement finished with a rec room and 2 additional bedrooms. \$214,900.

CHAPEL HILL CONDO! Rare, ranch style end unit in NE Ann Arbor near Pfizer, the University and Domino's Farms. Vaulted ceilings in the living areas. Huge full basement. New furnace, kitchen flooring, hallway carpet, and windows. \$169,900.

GEDDES LAKE TOWNHOME! Spectacular, private view of lake from this meticulously updated 'Patio' model. 1,200 sq. ft. with 2 large bedrooms and 1.5 baths. Kitchen has been totally remodeled. One-car attached garage. \$139,900.

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Chelsea Creekside Court. Brand new 18 site development. 10 sites available with water, sewer and other utilities. 1 spec currently under construction: 3 bedroom ranch at \$238,500. Many floor plans to choose. \$225,000 - \$275,000.

Saline The Arboretum, only 9 lots left in desirable sub. with water, sewer, sidewalks, views to area wetlands, conservation area. Walk to downtown. Bring your builder. \$95,000-\$135,000.

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Ann Arbor 1057 Lincoln. Charming, totally updated home, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3rd floor loft, heated front porch. New basement, kitchen, baths, 4 skylights, perennial gardens. \$579,000. #241289



Ann Arbor 415 Sommerset. Striking, bright 1.5-story, 1st floor bedroom suite and 2 upstairs. Beautiful kitchen with granite, skylights, finished basement with bath, Berber carpet. Spotless! \$287,900. #239942



Dexter 4743 Meadowlark Lane. Fabulous brick home. New kitchen, limestone floors, granite, paint. 4600+ sq. ft., 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath, study, in-ground pool. Brass Creek acre. \$739,900. #239154



Ann Arbor 560 Rock Creek. Brick ranch w/4 bedrooms, 2 baths, wood burning fireplace and screened porch viewing gorgeous, professional landscaped backyard. Wood floors under carpet. \$449,000. #240646



Ann Arbor 2911 Birch Hollow Ct. Sparkling brick ranch, many updates. New roof, windows, kitchen with white cabinets. 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, finished basement. 2-car garage, fenced. \$209,900. #238692



Ann Arbor 1704 Hermitage. Appealing 1950's brick contemporary with character in Ives Woods. 4 bedrooms or study, 2.5 baths, built-ins, hardwood floors, updates. Great backyard. \$529,500. #240991

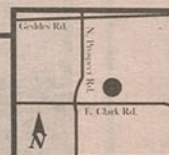
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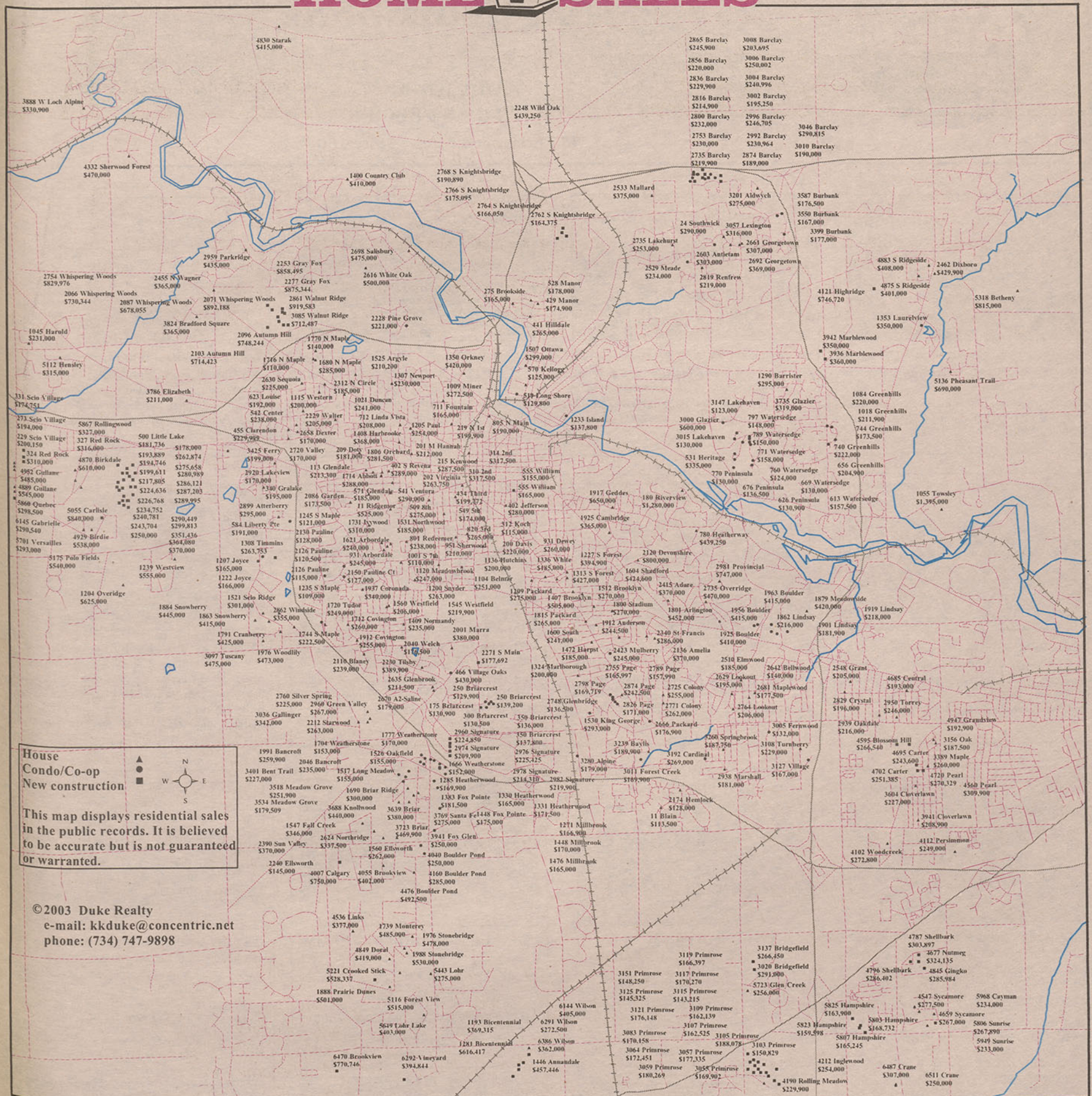
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SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2003

HOME SALES



Four hundred eight home sales are wedged into this month's map, where September's and October's sales are pictured together. During that period, builders ushered buyers into 100 brand-new homes. Fall always seems to concentrate the efforts of home builders, since the freeze of winter will soon convert contractors into snowmen and home buyers into couch potatoes.

How do sellers of existing homes contribute to the sale of all these new homes?

Naturally, by asking top dollar for our previous homes: at some point, we drive buyers into the developers' arms. One way to illustrate this point is to compare the median prices of new and old. New condos as a group sold for a median price of \$200,000 (half cost less, half cost more). By comparison, existing condos' median resale price was \$171,000. The tight \$29,000 spread between the two suggests that the competition from new units places a lid on the price

that sellers of existing condos can charge.

At first glance, there appears to be a roomier, \$80,000 spread between the median cost of an existing single-family home and that of a new one: 213 single-family homes resold for a \$270,000 median price, while forty-three new ones posted a \$350,000 median. The influence of new single-family homes appears even less when we note that they represented just 17 percent of the action in this market segment,

whereas new condos took a 38 percent slice of the pie. But if we revise the median new-home cost to account for fifteen additional sales in September and October that we suspect did not report full market price, then the spread shrinks dramatically, to just \$13,000. The competition from new construction is likely to be stiffest for homes selling near the median, especially those that lack distinctive features.

—Kevin Duke



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555 Briarwood Circle, Suite 100



SPACIOUS 2,266-sq.-ft. two-story home in Orchard Hills across from Sugar Bush Park. Close to Thurston Pond and Nature Center. Four bedrooms, first-floor laundry, hardwood floors, master bedroom with study. \$312,000. **Nancy Harrison 320-2211 / 662-8600.** (GE240140)



DEXTER BEAUTY. Built as a showcase in 1993 it has quality, style and is better than new. Four bedrooms, 4 baths, study, dining room, finished walkout lower level, two-acre lot. You need to see this one. \$539,900. **Lenore Lamsa 646-7793 / 662-8600.** (WE239669)



GREAT HOME! Four bedrooms, 2.5 baths with over 2,000 sq. ft.! First-floor laundry, fireplace, C/A. Ann Arbor Schools. \$244,900. Off Platt just south of Michigan. **Jamie Hicks-Thacker 657-4030 / 662-8600.** (BE240540)



TOTALLY WOODED BUILDING SITES in Ann Arbor. Premier neighborhood on the northwest side. Walkout view of protected forest. Homes to be built by Harris Homes. Lots 13 & 14. \$189,900. **Rick Jarzembowski 645-3634 / 662-8600.** (NE231282)



PINE CREEK RIDGE new construction. 3,200-sq.-ft brick home with first-floor master suite overlooking Brighton Lake. Fabulous home with loads of upgrades. Brighton schools. \$574,000. **John Romagnoli 368-0300 / 662-8600.** (HA240401)



EXECUTIVE BRICK RANCH in Stonebridge Golfing Comm. Three bedrooms with open floor plan. Maple kitchen cabinets with island and all appliances included. Three-car garage. \$429,900. **John Romagnoli 368-0300 / 662-8600.** (ST240355)



STONEBRIDGE GOLFING COMM. on the 16th tee. The Oakmont first-floor master, Brazilian plank floors, gourmet kitchen, loads of builder upgrades, 3-car garage. \$549,900. **John Romagnoli 368-0300 / 662-8600.** (WI240771)



CHARMING OLD WEST SIDE—3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1,300 sq. ft. Brick with sparkling new kitchen with ceramic tile and maple cabinets, refinished hardwood floors, coved ceiling in living room with fireplace. New B-Dry carpeted basement with fireplace. \$249,000. **Marlena Studer 216-4443 / 662-8600.** (DO240971)



ALL-SPORTS NORTH LAKE RANCH with walkout! The best buy in Chelsea just got better! Reduced to \$159,900. Potential along with tons of updates. Newer windows, shingles and furnace. **Janice Heidtman 635-9437 / 662-8600.** (BR235438)



BEAUTIFUL WATER FRONTAGE in Stonebridge. Detached site condo, spacious ranch, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3-season porch, finished walkout, attached 2-car garage. \$515,000. **Nancy Harrison 320-2211 / 662-8600.** (TW236662)



STONEBRIDGE GOLFING COMM. Contemporary home with first-floor master, open floor plan with vaulted greatroom, formal dining, White Bay kitchen with island. Located between the 8th and 9th fairways. Great location. \$484,000. **John Romagnoli 368-0300 / 662-8600.** (ST241276)



ELEGANT & PRISTINE—Four-bedroom Colonial built in 2002 with many upgrades. Offers hardwood floors, library, 2.5 baths, gas fireplace in family room, walkout basement, paver brick patio. Ideal location, recreation area! \$289,900. **Deb Barrett 645-0615 / 662-8600.** (AM241107)



COMPARE the sq. ft. you get with other homes. Total sq. ft. which includes walkout lower level is over 6,000! Five bedrooms, 3.5 baths, Corian counters, Dacor appliances, master with Jacuzzi, 6-person hot tub, 2nd floor suite, 4.5-car garage and more. \$519,900. **Mark VanBogelen 649-0386 / 662-8600.** (AD237661)



3228 BOLGOS CIRCLE. Adorable 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath Chapel Hill condo. 1,113 sq. ft. Half-finished basement. Neutral colors throughout. Cheerful kitchen. Private deck in backyard. \$170,000. **Zachary Mintzias 777-3687 / 662-8600.** (BO240874)



MOVE-IN READY — One-bedroom condo! New paint and carpets as well as updated kitchen and bath. Spacious bedroom with huge walk-in closet. \$108,000. **Michael Mazur 678-5020 / 662-8600.** (PA237021)



CONDO IS BEST of both worlds - trees out your window, yet walking distance to great shopping, restaurants, bus line, schools. Huge rooms, fabulous clubhouse with great facilities. \$109,950. **Gail Sinelli 662-8600.** (MA236924)

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*To all our good friends and
valued customers,
We wish you a safe
and peaceful
Holiday Season.*



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Photography: Thomas Cornie

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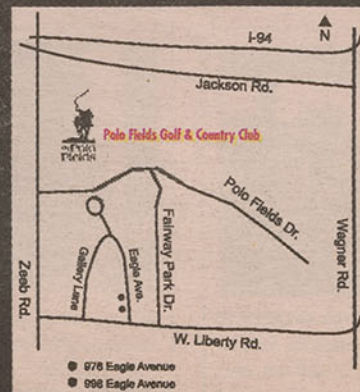
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ADVERTISERS INDEX

A2 O' Hair salon90	Daycroft Montessori School83	Mudpuddles toy store53
Abbott's Nursery & Garden Center7	Matt Dejanovich— Real Estate One118	Muehlig Funeral Chapel, Inc.105
Abracadabra Jewelry/Gem Gallery50	Delhi Glen—Charles Reinhart Company Realtors120	Naked Furniture30
Ace Barnes Hardware18	Delux Drapery & Shade92	Steve Nichols109
Advanced Laser Center95	Dental Faculty Associates (U-M)38	Nickels Arcade29
Affordable Interiors97	Jacques Dessange Salon & Spa49	Pelagos Taverna Greek Restaurant56
Afternoon Delight Cafe70	DetailsArt.com79	Pewabic Pottery66
Allstate Billiards & Patio FurnitureBC	Dexter's Pub58	PfizerIFC
American Cancer Society60	DogmaCatmantoo52	Potters Guild54
American Maids, Inc.7	Downtown Home & Garden64	Premier Package116
American Red Cross2	Dragon's Lair Futons & Furnishings68	Doug Price Photographs51
American Spoon70	Dream On Futons44	Princess Designs90
Ann Arbor Academy80	The Earle restaurant59	The Princeton Review78
Ann Arbor Agri-Center97	Elizabeth J. Interiors102	Purple Rose Theater77
Ann Arbor Art Center48	Elizabeth's Bridal Manor109	Quality 16 Theaters109
Ann Arbor Artisan Market91	Emerson School84	Quinn's Essentials17
Ann Arbor Ballet Theater81	Esquire Interiors95	Real Estate One122
Ann Arbor Bone & Joint Surgery40	Ethnic Creations—Kayu78	Real Estate One— Matt Dejanovich118
Ann Arbor Carpets & Fine Floors18	Eve restaurant60	Recycle Ann Arbor6, 94
Ann Arbor Christian School87	Falling Water Books & Collectables50	Red Belly Board Shop43
Ann Arbor Couples Clinic38	Farah & Associates, dentistry34	Charles Reinhart Company Realtors120
Ann Arbor Cyclery43	First Choice Chiropractic102	Renaissance clothing69
Ann Arbor Dermatology39	First Presbyterian Church94	Republic Bank123
Ann Arbor District Library75	Flatsnoots Christmas Trees74	Roadrunner Restaurant58
Ann Arbor Film Festival Wine Event91	Fleetwood Diner69	Ron's Garage42
Ann Arbor Hills Child Development Center87	Flint Institute of Arts72	Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor81
Ann Arbor Observer14, 103, 110, 116, 126	Flying Sheep Yarns92	Running Fit43
Ann Arbor Open School at Mack86	Food Gatherers64	St. Paul Lutheran School83
Ann Arbor Public Schools8	Forma Fine Crafts49	Saline Obstetrics & Gynecology36
Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts85	Linda Forster— Edward Surovell Realtors28	Salon Vertigo63
Ann Arbor Summer Festival81	Fourth Avenue Sleep Shop127	Salon XL110
Ann Arbor Vasectomy Clinic38	Frames Unlimited54	Schakolad Chocolate Factory50
Ann Arbor Women's City Club92	Fresh Seasons Market10	Schlanderer & Sons, jewelers49, 64
Ann Arbor Youth Chorale81	Georgetown Gifts25	Dr. Peter Scuccimari35
Arbor Brewing Company56	Glacier Hills Retirement Center39	John Shultz Photography78
Arbor Farms Natural Foods Market28	Godaiko restaurant63	Siam Square66
Arbor Hospice32	Gold Bond Cleaners29	16 Hands51
Arbor Springs Water102	Great Harvest Bread Company62	Smoke House Blues Memphis Style BBQ58
Arbor Vacuum3	Grizzly Peak Brewing Company59	Greg Sobran Fine Art72
arborweb.com14, 126	Haven home furnishings60	Soccer Plus45
Arthroscopic Rotator Cuff Repair40	H. M. Hildebrandt, M.D.— Personal Pediatrics36	Spectrum Imaging25
Arts in Motion Dance Studio85	Hiller's Market74	Steve Steeb Service101
Austin & Warburton jewelers52	Hillside Terrace36	Randal Stegmeyer, photographer25
Autumn Woods Condominiums120	Honey Creek Community School86	Summers-Knoll School82
Ave Maria Gallery79	Huron Camera & Video11	Sweetwaters Cafe48
Ayse's Turkish Cafe7	Huron Scuba54	Tabor Hill Wine Tasting Room & Gallery68
B & B Heartwoods101	In Touch Therapeutic Massage96	Talking Colors Art School80
BMW of Ann Arbor40	Inke's Skin Care23	Tecumseh Merchants60
BRG Custom Homes124	It's Just Lunch dating service5	Thredz women's clothing25
Bacardi88, 89	Jules Furniture64	Three Chairs Company, furniture24
Bacardi Cielon106	Ken's Nielsen Flowers53	Touchstone Cohousing Community4
The Bead Gallery90	Kentwood Office Furniture104	Traver Village12
Bellandina Day Spa & Gift Boutique91	Kerrytown Historic Market District52	Treasure Mart63
Bennett Optometry1	Kerrytown Market & Shops52	Trillium Real Estate44
Big City Small World Bakery90	Kilwin's Chocolates63	Tupim Thai Cuisine62
Big George's Home Appliance Mart18	King's Keyboard House17	Turner's Nursery & Landscape Contractors42
Birkenstock, Fourth Ave.127	Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor80	William Tyndale College40
Bivouac13	Knit A Round Yarn Shop94	U-M Museum of Art22, 72, 79
Black Hare Toys86	Kuya99	U-M Nurse Practitioners34
Blue Nile restaurant62	Land Architects21	U-M School of Art & Design76
James A. Bond, Ph.D.21	John Leidy Shop7, 78	U-M School of Music77
Martin Bouma, Realtor— Keller Williams Realty119	Carolyn Lepard— Edward Surovell Realtors23	U-M Turner Geriatric Clinic32
Boychoir of Ann Arbor80	The Lotus Gallery77	Ufer & Co. Insurance Agency40
Briarwood mall67	Lotus Thai Restaurant56	University Commons31
Elizabeth Brien, Realtor—Charles Reinhart Company Realtors30, 120	Lurie Terrace39	University Living32
Bugaboos, a Boutique for Children83	MOSA Audiology32	University Musical SocietyIBC
Cabinet Clinic104	Mae's Acadian Seafood Shack69	Venta Air-Washer104
Cambridge House Antiques77	Madstone Theaters43	Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts93
Dale Carnegie Courses110	Main Street Area Association46	The Village at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital14
Casey's Tavern61	Materials Unlimited44	Village Cooperative Homes120
Castle Remedies35	Mediterrano Restaurant56	Village Pharmacy II92
Center for Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery110	Metro Delivery53	Voila Boutique48
Chelsea Retirement Communities20	Metzger's German restaurant66	Weber's Inn55
Cheveux Salon45	George Meyer Company, windows & doors105	Welcome Home cleaning service102
China Gate restaurant127	Mezzanine furniture & accessories49	White Rabbit Toys16
Christian Montessori School of Ann Arbor85	Michigan Vein Center37	Khita Whyatt— Coregrace Pilates Studio95
City of Ann Arbor—snow removal26	Middle Earth55	Wild Birds Unlimited43
Closet Company of Mid Michigan101	Miles of Golf45	Williamsburg Dental Group42
Coffee Express15	MindWorks Learning84	Youth Dance Theater of Michigan53
The Common Grill68	Mobile Mower Repair100	Maria Zaborniak, paramedical esthetician97
Community Education & Recreation— Ann Arbor Public Schools40	Modern Mechanical Heating & Cooling100	Zingerman's Community of Businesses71
Community Television Network96	Monahan's Seafood Market65	Zydeco Louisiana Kitchen58
The Container Warehouse100	Grace Morand haircutting93	
Howard Cooper, auto sales15	Dr. John Morris— Ann Arbor Bone & Joint Surgery40	
Cottage Inn Catering70	Motawi Tileworks54	
Susan Craig watercolors93		
Dan's River Grill (Manchester)57		
Dance Classics86		
Dance Gallery Studio79		
The Dancer's Boutique85		
Daniel's on Liberty61		

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DISCOVER

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ACE Barnes Hardware18	Ken's-Nielsen's Flowers53
Advanced Laser Center95	Mobile Mower Repair Inc100
Ann Arbor Dermatology39	Pelagos56
Arbor Vacuum3	Quality 16 Theaters109
The Bead Gallery90	Ron's Garage42
Castle Remedies35	Village Pharmacy II18
Falling Water Books50	Wild Birds Unlimited42

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TODAY'S EVENTS

SEASONAL EVENTS

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

RESTAURANTS

CITY GUIDE

SINGLES

NIGHTSPOTS

CLASSIFIED ADS

WEATHER FORECAST

VISITOR INFORMATION

HOUSES & APARTMENTS

HEALTH CARE

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

BACK PAGE

I SPY

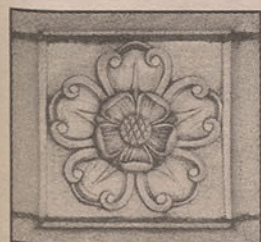
by Sally Bjork

These eyes gaze on a city block
Where rail freight cars abruptly
stopped
One night.
With fright,
Nearby diners to the scene flocked.



To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the riddle above and the photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

"The character of the legal profession depends largely on the character of the law schools," wrote U-M Law School alumnus (1882) William Wilson Cook. Cook did his part by donating the funds to build the U-M Law Quadrangle featured in November's I Spy. The rosette depicted is a detail in the northwest archway next to the Lawyers Club, conceived by Cook as a place where students could meet faculty and visiting lawyers on common ground. The complex was still



under construction when Cook died in New York in 1930; he never saw the buildings he funded.

"Among my earliest memories [from] growing up in Ann Arbor are marveling at these castlelike buildings!" exclaimed U-M law alum Richard Charlton of New York City. Laura Brubacher, who works at the Law Library, was shown November's photo by a neighbor—they agreed it had to be of the Law Quad. "Walking to work," Brubacher wrote, "I found six examples of the design in the [north] arches." Northville resident William Sivy's entry was drawn from the eight correct ones; he'll receive the latest edition of *Historic Buildings: Ann Arbor, Michigan*, by Marjorie Reade and Susan Wineberg.

Starting with our January 2004 issue, we will be sending our I Spy contest winners a copy of the book *A History of Ann Arbor* by Jonathan L. Marwil.

FAKE AD

by Jay Forstner

Only sixty-one people correctly identified the Fake Ad for The Happy Medium on p. 102 of the November Observer. That's a low number for November, but the paucity of correct entries came as no surprise to Ann Arbor's Lisa Rombes. "I think you have done it," she wrote. "There have been way too many 'amateurs' entering, and you need to get the numbers down. This one will fool all but [us] intrepid regulars. My psychic told me so."

Neal Laurance, also of Ann Arbor, was one of the intrepid regulars who found the ad. "Arborweb [the Observer's website, included in some guise in every Fake Ad] appears to be in Cyrillic, but every other character, starting at the upper left hand corner, clockwise," he wrote. "The other characters I don't recognize. Perhaps I should review my tarot cards. If this isn't the Fake Ad, it should be called the Mysti-

cal Ad." Laurance won our random drawing; he's taking his gift certificate to Grizzly Peak Brewing Company.

To enter the contest for December, identify the Fake Ad by name and page number, and let us know at the address below. The winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

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Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. Fax: (734) 769-4950. E-mail: penny@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Wednesday, December 10, will be eligible for the December drawings.

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Fourth Ave Sleep Shop offers an expanded line of the Swedish **Tempur-Pedic** mattresses and pillows Paul and Claire introduced to Ann Arbor 7 years ago, and new **Natura** beds, made in Canada from organic wool and cotton, and natural latex. Some models feature floating slat foundations with individually adjustable lumbar, knee, and neck supports. Also: organic cotton sheets, wool toppers and comforters, natural crib bedding, eye masks, nightlights, sleep CD's, and more.

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE



Taslimah Bey & the Silver Dollar Ragtime Band



A capsule guide to selected major events in December. See p. 73 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p. 73.

Classical & Religious Music

- Vox early-music chorus, Dec. 3
- Pianist Arthur Greene, Dec. 4
- Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, Dec. 5
- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 6
- Sacred Song chorus, Dec. 6
- University Choral Union *Messiah*, Dec. 6 & 7
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 7
- Chelsea Chamber Players, Dec. 7
- Our Own Thing Chorale chorus, Dec. 9
- Women's Chamber Chorus, Dec. 12
- First Presbyterian Church *A Russian Christmas*, Dec. 12 & 13
- Cabaret by musical theater grads Courtney Balan, Celia Keenan-Bolger, and Maddy Wyatt, Dec. 13
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 13
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 14
- Jefferson Street Chorale, Dec. 18
- Third Millennium Chamber Chorus, Dec. 21

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Michael Cooney (folk), Dec. 11
- Josh White Jr. (folk), Dec. 13
- Finvarra's Wren (Celtic), Dec. 20
- Crossroads Ceili (Celtic), Dec. 27 & 28

Comedy & Performance Art

- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, Dec. 2 & 16
- Comic Peter Berman, Dec. 4-6
- "Poetry Night in Ann Arbor," Dec. 11
- Comic Nick Gaza, Dec. 11-13
- Comic Kevin McPeck, Dec. 18-20
- Comic Keith Ruff, Dec. 26 & 27
- Comic Tim Walkoe, Dec. 31

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *The Good Doctor* (Purple Rose Theater), Dec. 3-7, 10-14, & 17-20
- *Murder in the Cathedral* (Ave Maria College), Dec. 4-6
- *Ruddigore; or, The Witch's Curse* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 4-7
- *The Nutcracker* (U-M Theater Department), Dec. 4-7
- *Xmas Carol* (BlackBag Productions), Dec. 4-7 & 11-14
- *Bell, Book, & Candle* (P.T.D. Productions), Dec. 4-6
- *The Secret Garden* (EMU Theater Department), Dec. 4-6
- *The Home Team* (Performance Network), Dec. 4-7, 11-14, & 18-21
- Bert Hornback reads *A Christmas Carol*, Dec. 5
- *The Truth about Teeth* (Dreamland Theater), Dec. 5-7, 12-14, & 19-21
- *Winter Wonderland* (Dance Gallery Studio), Dec. 5
- *Order and Chaos* (U-M Dance Department), Dec. 5 & 6
- *Coppelia and Billy the Kid* (EMU Music Department), Dec. 5
- *Nutcracker* (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 6 & 7
- John Kane in the one-man show *Scrooge Tells All*, Dec. 8-10
- *Nutcrackers* (Saline Area Players), Dec. 12, 13, & 18-21
- *Nutcracker* (Youth Dance Theater of Michigan), Dec. 12-14
- *A Tale of Two Cities* (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 12-14
- *A Doll House* (U-M Residential College), Dec. 12 & 13
- *Heart's Plunder* (Dance Gallery Studio), Dec. 12
- *Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 19-21
- *Santa's Elves on Strike* (Dexter Community Players), Dec. 26-29

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Holiday bazaars & sales, Dec. 2, 3, 4, 5-7, 12, 13, & 14
- Scandinavian Christmas Celebration, Dec. 4
- Memoirist Bob Tarte, Dec. 4
- Christmas Creche Display, Dec. 5-8
- Chelsea Festival of Lights, Dec. 5-7
- Dexter United Methodist Church Christmas Odyssey, Dec. 5 & 6
- Main Street "Festive Friday Holiday Nights," Dec. 5, 12, & 19
- Concordia Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 5-7
- Waterloo Area Farm Museum "Christmas on the Farm," Dec. 6 & 7
- Dexter's Victorian Christmas, Dec. 6 & 13
- Kempf House German Family Christmas, Dec. 6, 7, 13, & 14
- Saline Holiday Parade, Dec. 6
- Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour, Dec. 7
- Anthroposophical Society Christmas Festival, Dec. 19
- Ypsilanti New Year Jubilee, Dec. 31

Lectures & Readings

- Poet Enid Dame, Dec. 3
- Novelist Nicholas Delbanco, Dec. 4
- Novelist Jennifer Fink, Dec. 8
- Children's fiction writer Shutta Crum, Dec. 21

Films

- Local artist Jesse Richards's documentary *Among Wolves: The Story of Wolfson Ranch Foundation*, Dec. 12
- Buster Keaton's *Seven Chances* with original live score by Blue Dahlia, Dec. 14
- Sing-along screening of *The Sound of Music*, Dec. 25

Miscellaneous

- Conger Alumnae Group Holiday Home Tour, Dec. 2
- Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 20

The annual Ragtime Bash at First Unitarian on December 14 features Detroit's Taslimah Bey & the Silver Dollar Ragtime Band, local favorite pianist Bob Seeley, and other musicians, playing recently discovered rags by noted Detroit-area composer Harry Guy and tunes by Jelly Roll Morton, Scott Joplin, and Artie Matthews.

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Asylum Street Spankers (neohippie string band), Dec. 2
- Brad Shepik Trio (jazz), Dec. 4
- Madcat & Kane (blues & jazz), Dec. 4
- Special Consensus (bluegrass), Dec. 5
- Big Al & the Heavyweights (blues), Dec. 5
- Huron Valley Harmonizers (barbershop), Dec. 6
- Jana (dance-pop), Dec. 6
- U-M Contemporary Improvisors (avant-jazz), Dec. 6
- Paul Keller Ensemble (jazz), Dec. 6
- "Johnny Cash Tribute" with several local bands & singer-songwriters, Dec. 6
- Jeremy Kittel & Friends (acoustic string music), Dec. 7
- Ryan Adams (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 11
- Don White (singer-songwriter), Dec. 12 & 13
- Fonnimhor (Celtic-rock), Dec. 12
- Bela Fleck & the Flecktones (avant-bluegrass), Dec. 12
- II-V-I Orchestra (big band), Dec. 14
- Holiday Ragtime Bash with pianists Bob Seeley, Mike Montgomery, & Kent Eshelman, and Taslimah Bey & the Silver Dollar Ragtime Band, Dec. 14
- Mike Marshall & Chris Thile (mandolin), Dec. 15
- Jane Siberry (art-rock), Dec. 16
- Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band (calypso & reggae), Dec. 18
- Tom Saunders & the Midwest Jazz All-Stars, Dec. 20 & 21
- Ann Arbor Musicians for Peace concert with several local bands & singer-songwriters, Dec. 21
- Shahida Nurullah (jazz), Dec. 31
- George Benson Quartet (jazz), Dec. 31
- Todd Snider (folk-rock), Dec. 31
- Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players (blues) and the Killer Flamingos (rock 'n' roll), Dec. 31
- The Bang! (garage rock), Dec. 31
- Cloud Nine Music (funk-rock), Dec. 31

Family & Kids' Stuff

- U-M Exhibit Museum Dinosaur Discovery Day, Dec. 6
- Children's Russian Club Cultural Show, Dec. 6
- Main Street Children's Holiday Parade, Dec. 7
- *Firebird* (Wild Swan Theater), Dec. 10-14
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Sing Along with Santa," Dec. 13
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, Dec. 13

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- 5th Annual Tuba Christmas, Dec. 6

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December



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Christmas Concert!

Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra

Keith Lockhart conductor
Stephen Salters baritone
Carmen Harlan narrator
Mary Sue Coleman guest conductor
with the University Singers
California State University, Fullerton

Fri 12/5 8 pm

Crisler Arena

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Handel's Messiah

UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Blackstone conductor
Dominique Labelle soprano
David Daniels countertenor
Steven Tharp tenor
Michael Dean bass-baritone
Edward Parmentier harpsichord

Sat 12/6 8 pm

Sun 12/7 2 pm

Michigan Theater

The UMS Choral Union is deeply embedded in the history of UMS; the formation of the ensemble ultimately led to the creation of UMS as a concert presenter 125 years ago. Since then, the ensemble has performed Handel's glorious oratorio, *Messiah*, nearly every season. Join the members of the UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra for this time-honored tradition. Jerry Blackstone, the Director of Choirs and Chair of the Conducting Department at U-M, serves as interim conductor for the UMS Choral Union during its 125th season.

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For a free brochure with complete event listings and registration information, please contact the UMS Education Department at 734-615-0122 or umsed@umich.edu, or visit www.ums.org.

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U-M Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Blackstone conductor
Kenneth Kiesler conductor
Richard Cordery emcee

Sat 1/17 8:30 pm

Hill Auditorium



Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique The Monteverdi Choir

John Eliot Gardiner conductor

Sun 1/18 6 pm

Hill Auditorium

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Hill Auditorium Re-Opening Weekend Sponsors



Jazz Divas Summit Dianne Reeves, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and Regina Carter

Mon 1/19 7:30 pm

Hill Auditorium

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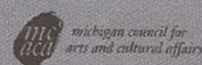
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